MAD CAVE
HUNT. KILL. REPEAT.™
LONDON - ARCHIDIACONO - DEERING - LOUGHRIDGE - WOOTON
KINGAID
WESTFALL
#1

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MAD CAVE

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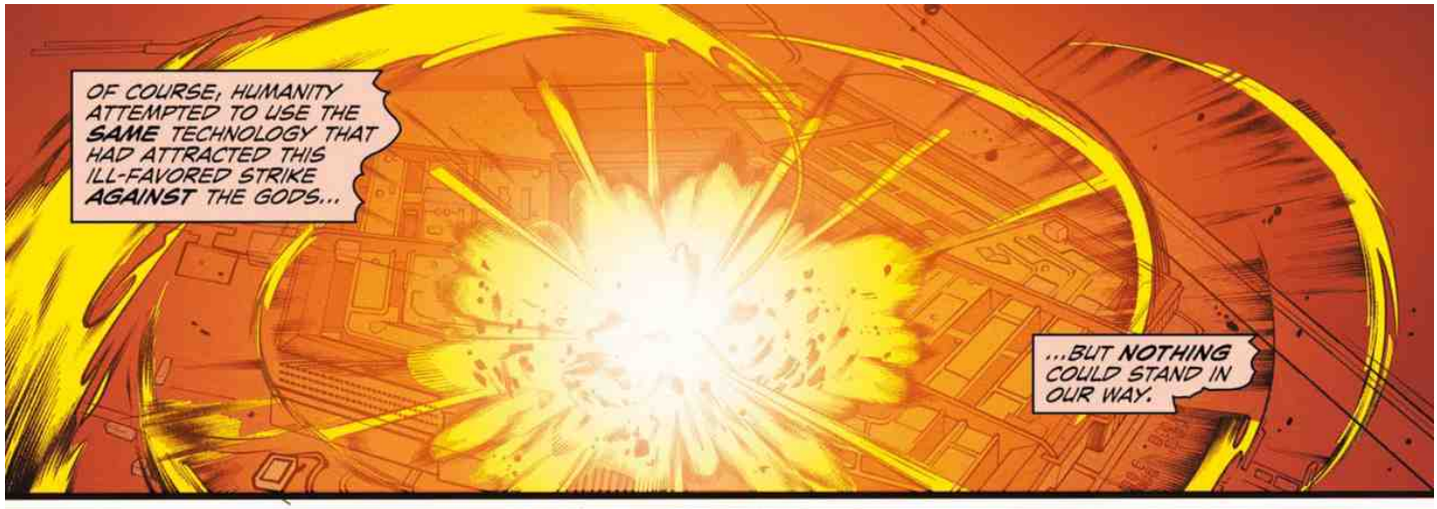
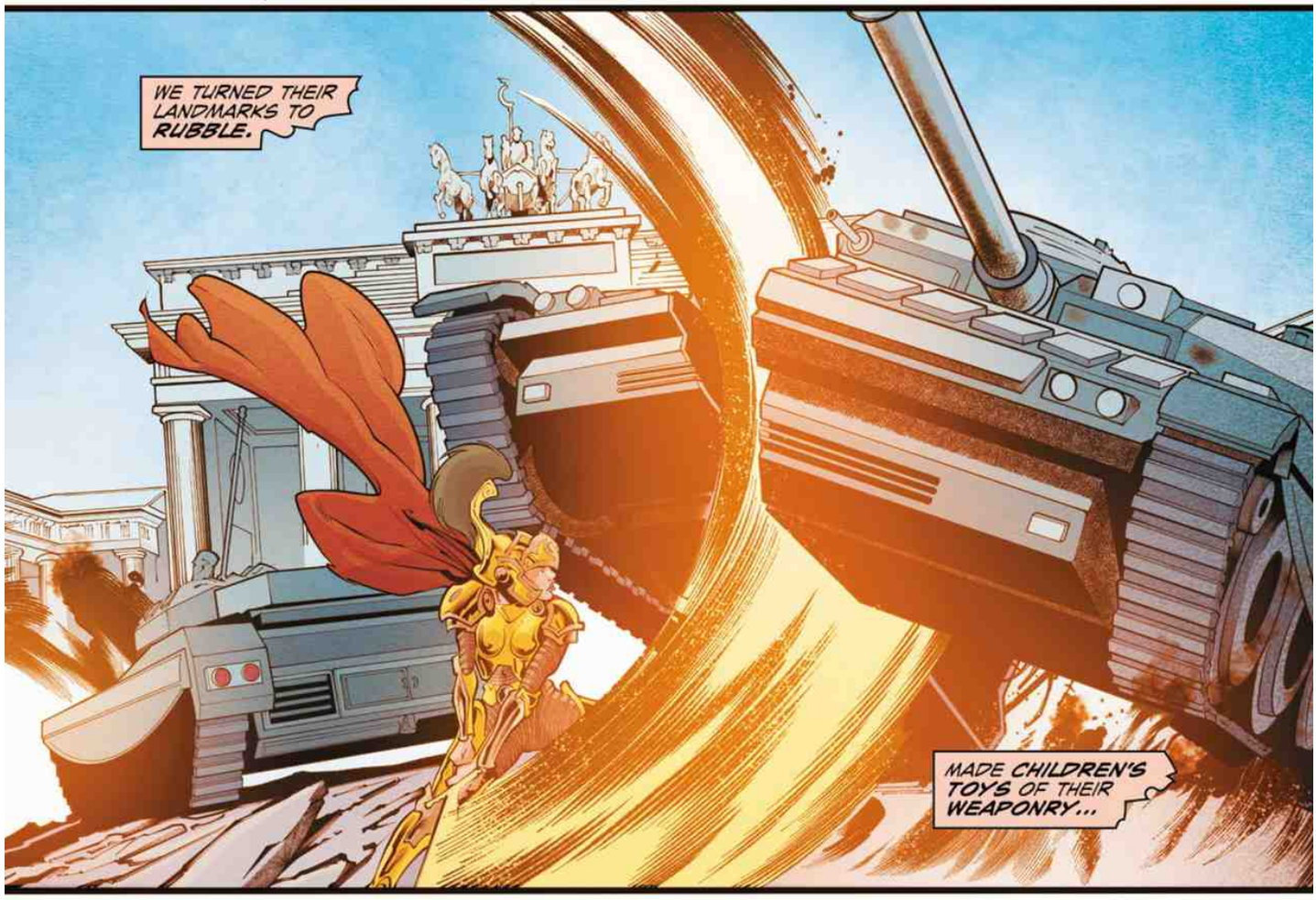
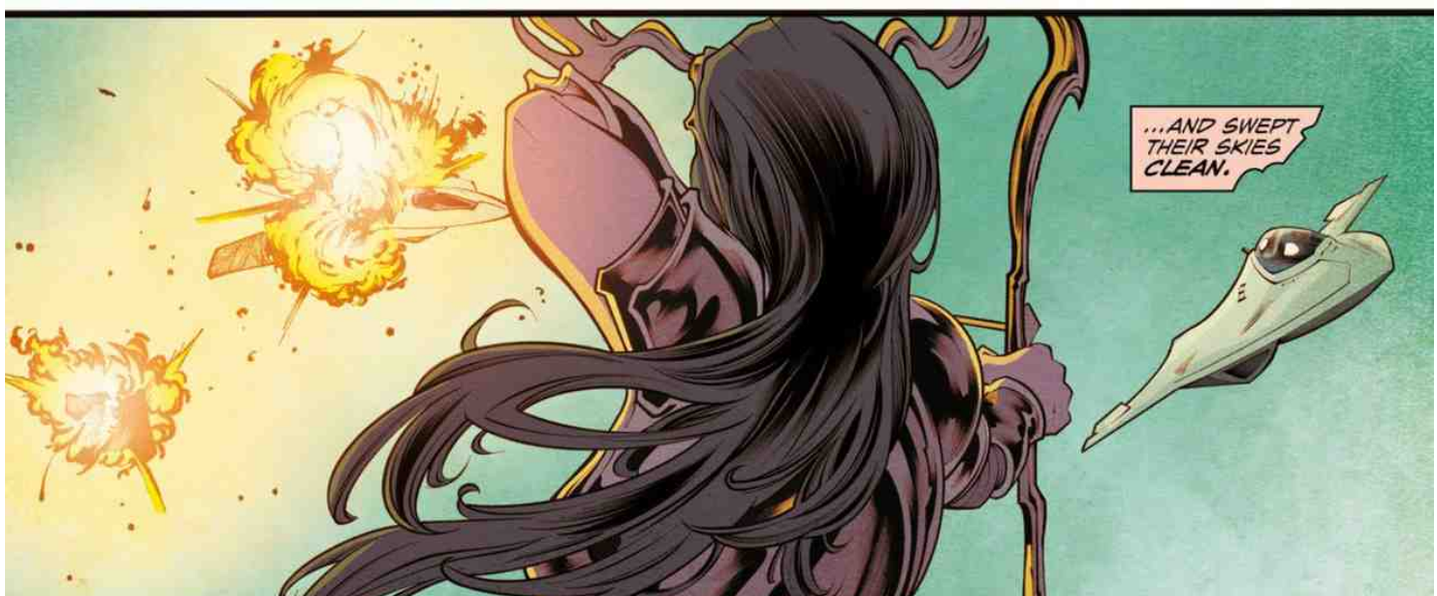
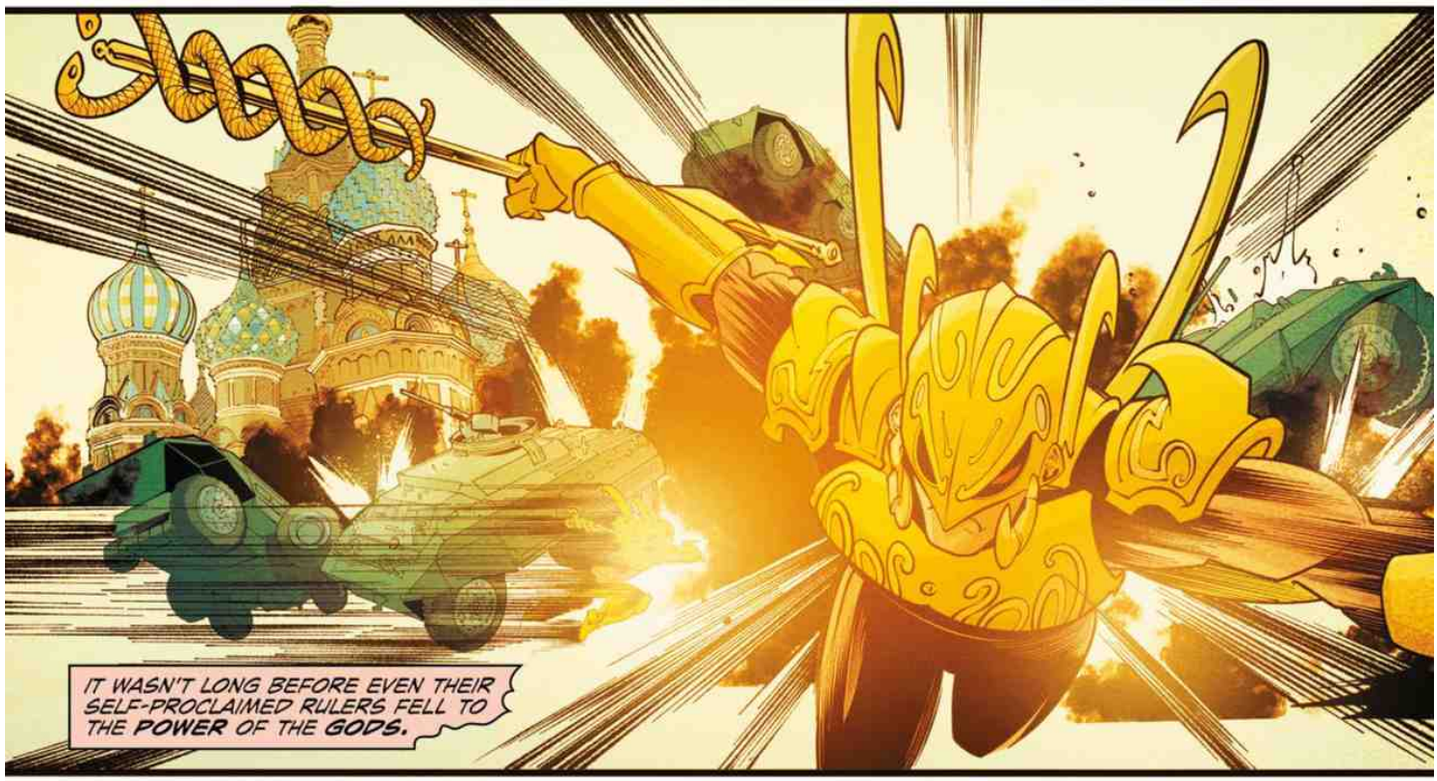
HUMANITY HAD LONG FORGOTTEN THE GODS.
BRING THEM TO THEIR KNEES.
IF THEY RESIST...
THEIR LIVES CONSUMED BY TECHNOLOGY.
...KILL THEM.
THEY WERE FOOLS TO THINK THE ALMIGHTY ZEUS WOULD LET THIS TRANSGRESSION GO UNPUNISHED.
ZEUS GAVE THE ORDER


OF COURSE, HUMANITY ATTEMPTED TO USE THE **SAME** TECHNOLOGY THAT HAD ATTRACTED THIS ILL-FAVORED STRIKE **AGAINST** THE GODS...
...BUT **NOTHING** COULD STAND IN OUR WAY.


WE TURNED THEIR LANDMARKS TO **RUBBLE.**
MADE **CHILDREN'S TOYS** OF THEIR **WEAPONRY...**

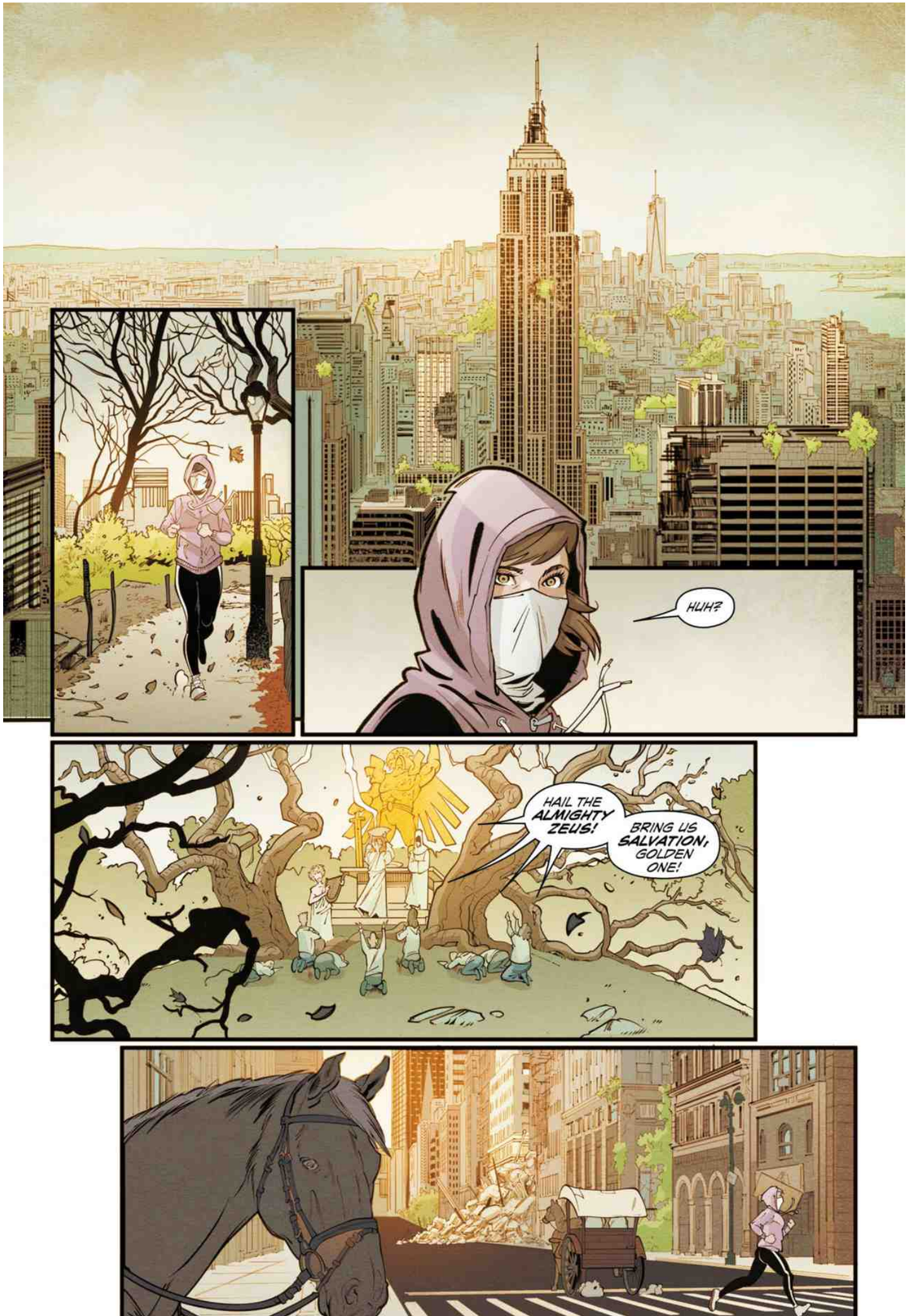

...AND SWEPT THEIR SKIES **CLEAN.**

ACROSS THE GLOBE, WE FORCED SOCIETY TO SUBMIT.


IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE EVEN THEIR SELF-PROCLAIMED RULERS FELL TO THE POWER OF THE GODS.

NO ONE COULD ESCAPE ZEUS'S RECKONING...

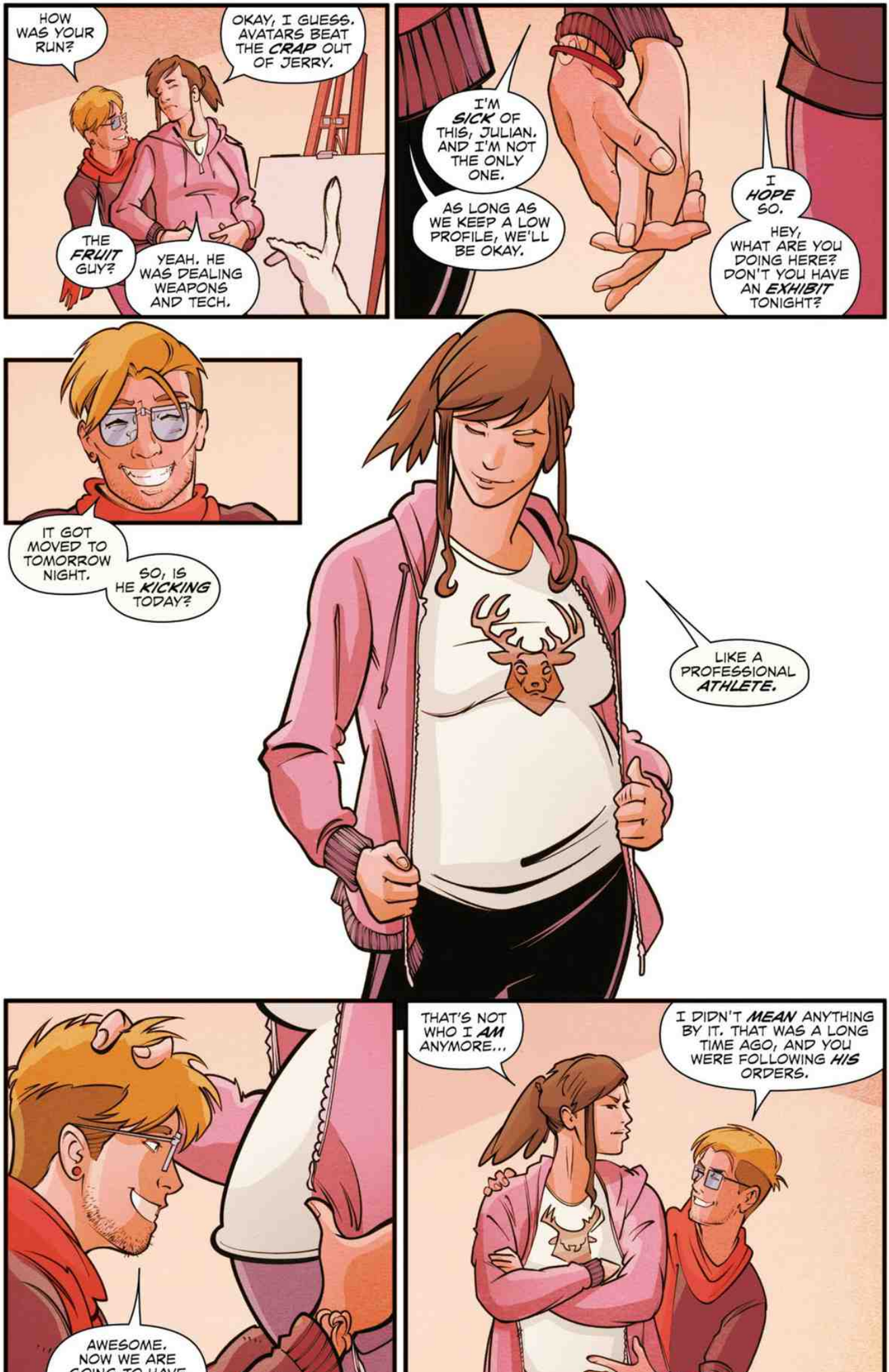
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK.
TODAY.
...NOT EVEN HIS OWN CHILDREN.
ALL HAIL OLYMPUS
WORSHIP

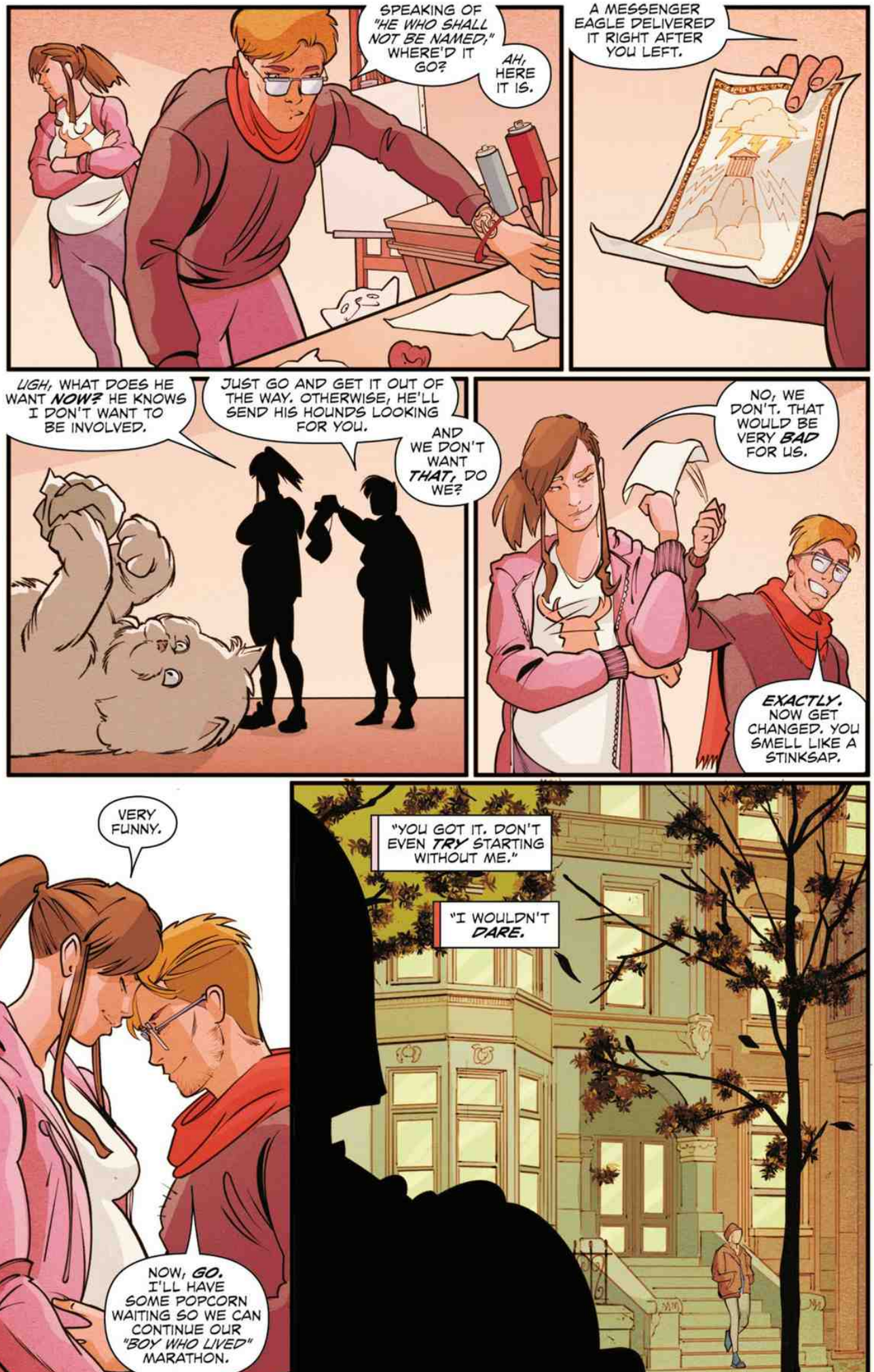

HUH?
HAIL THE ALMIGHTY ZEUS!
BRING US SALVATION, GOLDEN ONE!

HEY, ARTEMIS! YOU FORGOT SOMETHING!
YEAH? WHAT'S THAT?
CATCH, BONITA!
AW. YOU'RE TOO KIND, JERRY.
TUP
AFTER ALL THAT RUNNIN', IT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO FOR THAT BUN YOU GOT IN THE OVEN.
DON'T WORRY, ARTEMIS. THE FIRST ONE IS ALWAYS SCARY. I REMEMBER MY FIRST LIKE IT WAS--
THWACK
ACK!

JERRY SANCHEZ. YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF TRAFFICKING TECHNOLOGY.
PLEASE, SIR! I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG!
THUD
NOTHING, HUH?
TECH-PEDDLING PIECE OF SHIT.
THUD
WHACK
THUMP
FUCK YOU AND YOUR GODS! YOU'RE ALL TRAITORS TO YOUR OWN KIND!

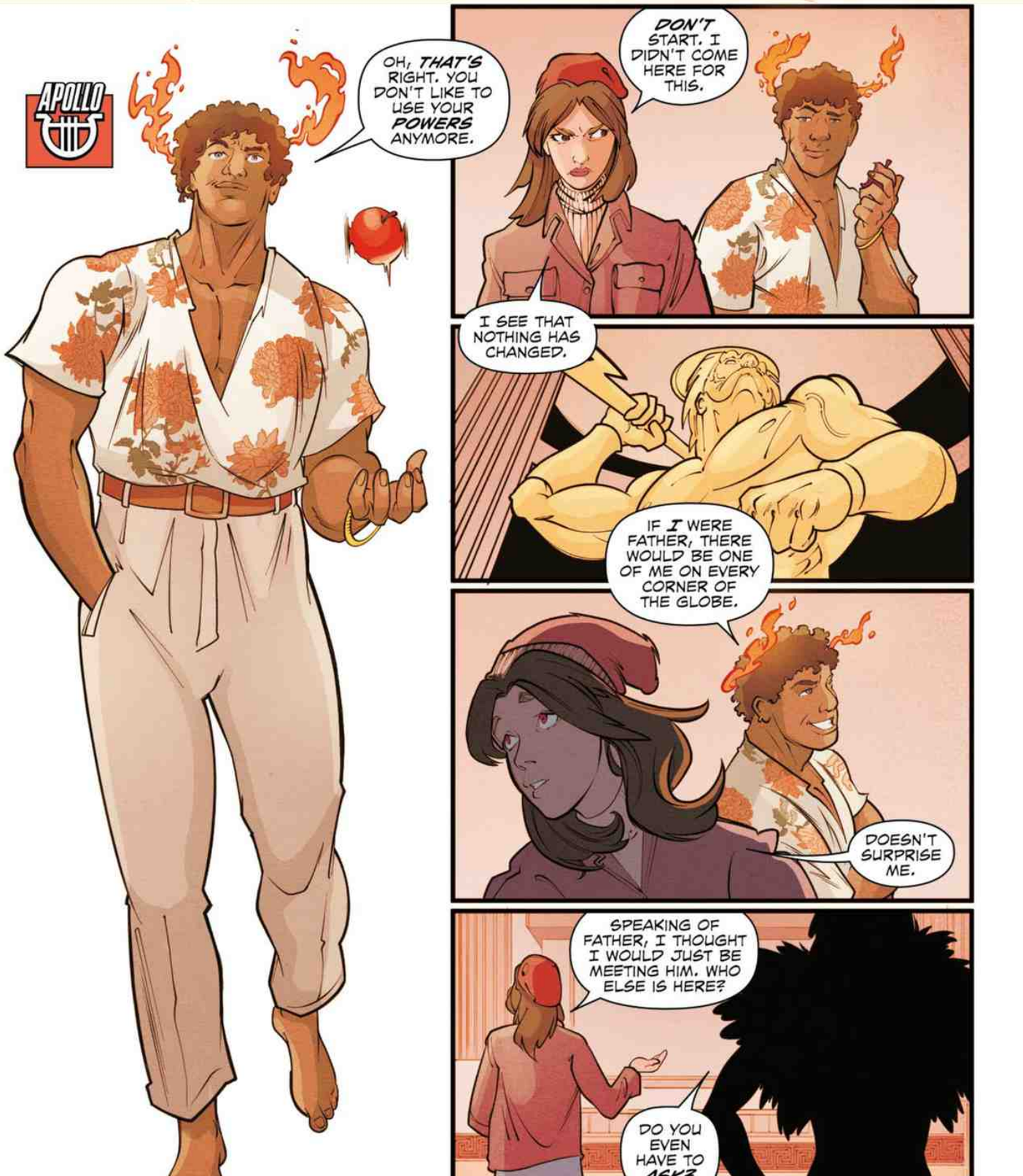
=SIGH=
ABRAXAS?
THERE YOU ARE!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, LITTLE GUY?
DECK-BOY
CATCH ANY BIRDS LATELY?
OH, I FORGOT. YOU'RE JUST A LAZY BALL OF CUTENESS.
BABE?

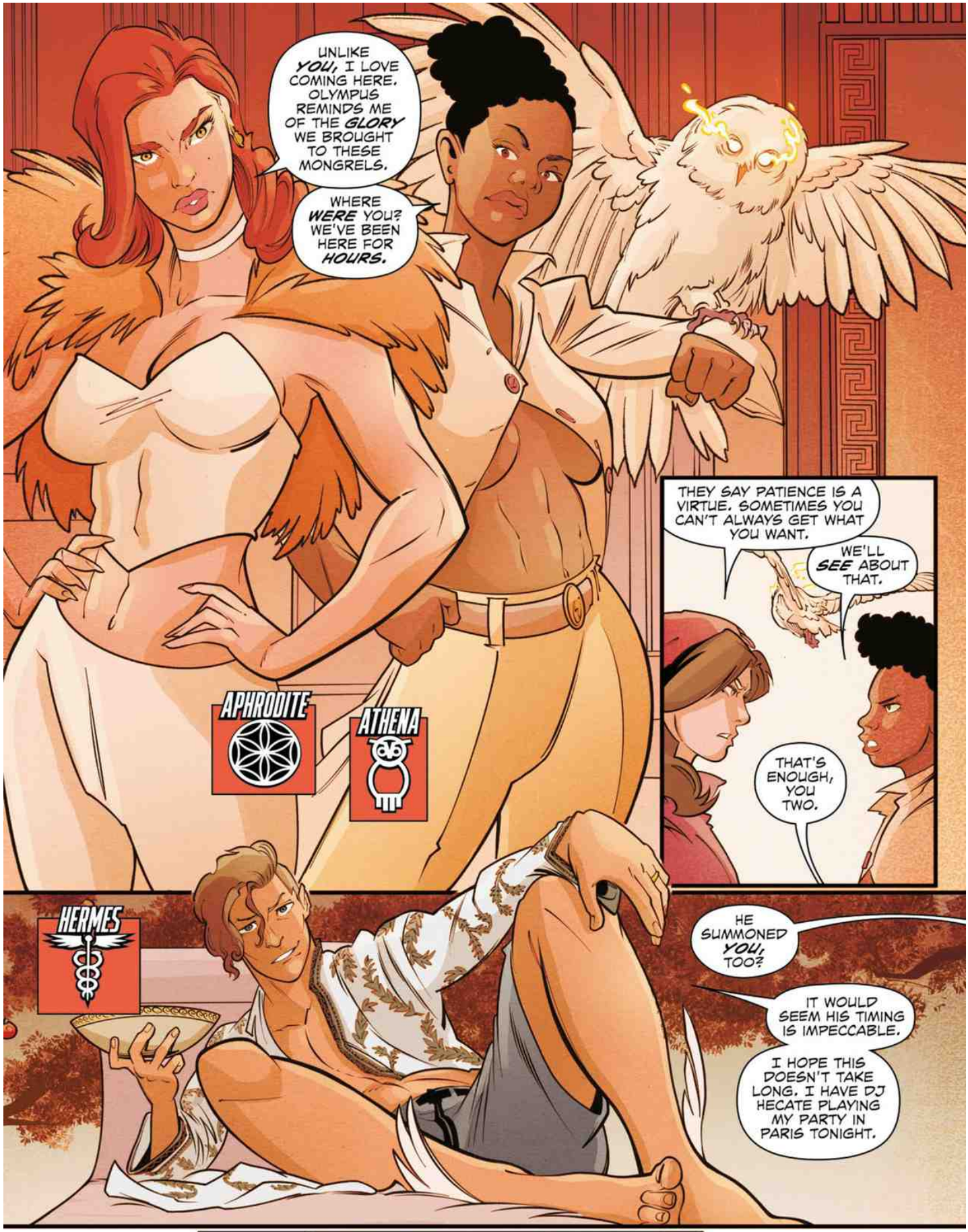

HOW WAS YOUR RUN?
OKAY, I GUESS. AVATARS BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF JERRY.
THE FRUIT GUY?
YEAH. HE WAS DEALING WEAPONS AND TECH.
I'M SICK OF THIS, JULIAN. AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
AS LONG AS WE KEEP A LOW PROFILE, WE'LL BE OKAY.
I HOPE SO.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DON'T YOU HAVE AN EXHIBIT TONIGHT?
IT GOT MOVED TO TOMORROW NIGHT.
SO, IS HE KICKING TODAY?
LIKE A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE.
AWESOME. NOW WE ARE GOING TO HAVE
THAT'S NOT WHO I AM ANYMORE...
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT. THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, AND YOU WERE FOLLOWING HIS ORDERS.

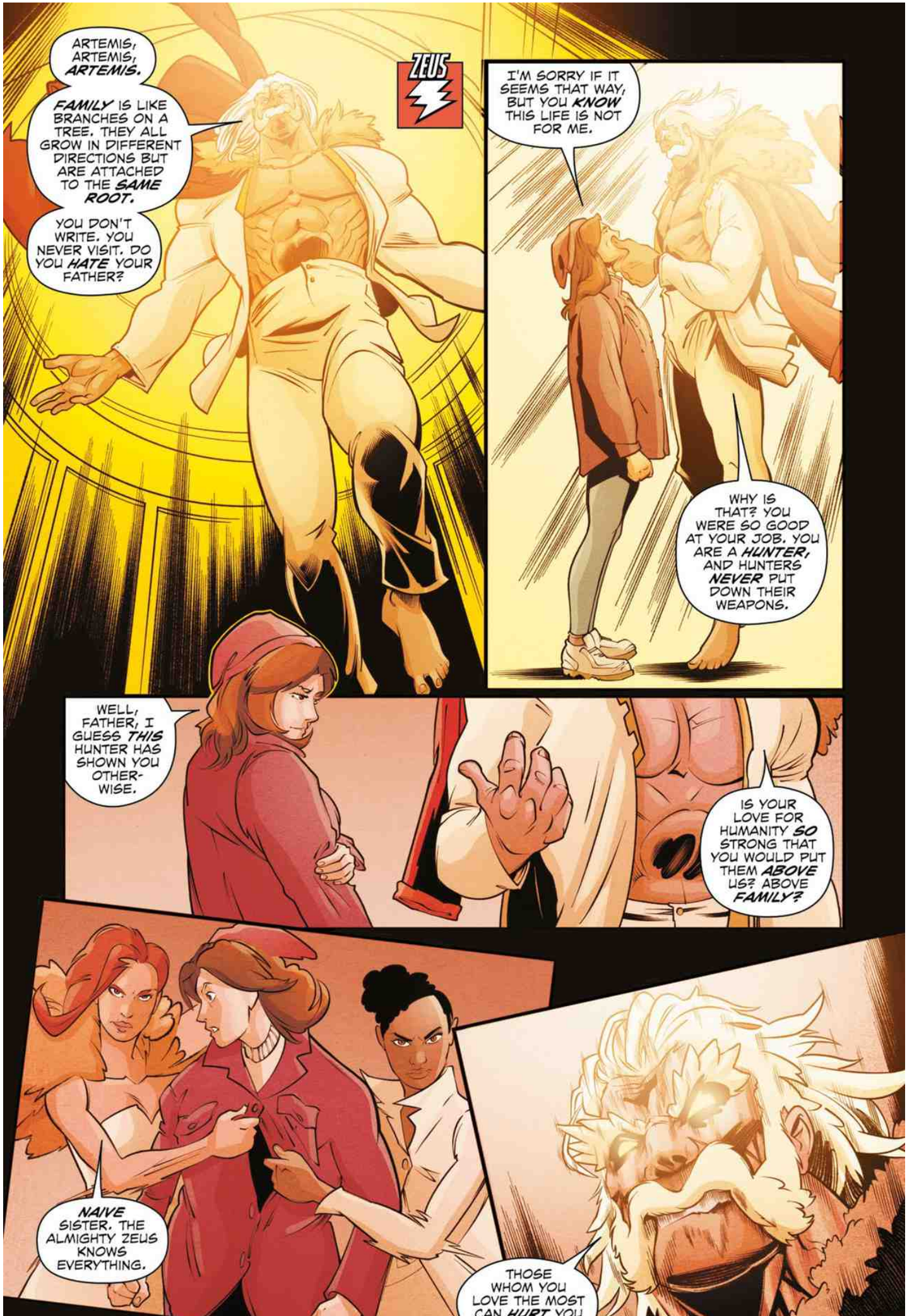

SPEAKING OF "HE WHO SHALL NOT BE NAMED," WHERE'D IT GO?
AH, HERE IT IS.
A MESSENGER EAGLE DELIVERED IT RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT.
UGH, WHAT DOES HE WANT NOW? HE KNOWS I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED.
JUST GO AND GET IT OUT OF THE WAY. OTHERWISE, HE'LL SEND HIS HOUNDS LOOKING FOR YOU.
AND WE DON'T WANT THAT, DO WE?
NO, WE DON'T. THAT WOULD BE VERY BAD FOR US.
EXACTLY. NOW GET CHANGED. YOU SMELL LIKE A STINKSAP.
VERY FUNNY.
NOW, GO. I'LL HAVE SOME POPCORN WAITING SO WE CAN CONTINUE OUR "BOY WHO LIVED" MARATHON.
"YOU GOT IT. DON'T EVEN TRY STARTING WITHOUT ME."
"I WOULDN'T DARE.

OLYMPUS, NEW YORK.
A FEW HOURS LATER.
"...CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE."
ARTEMIS
LEMANTIS.
HE'S EXPECTING YOU. FOLLOW ME.
WHAT DOES HE WANT NOW?
I JUST FOLLOW ORDERS.
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, SISTER?

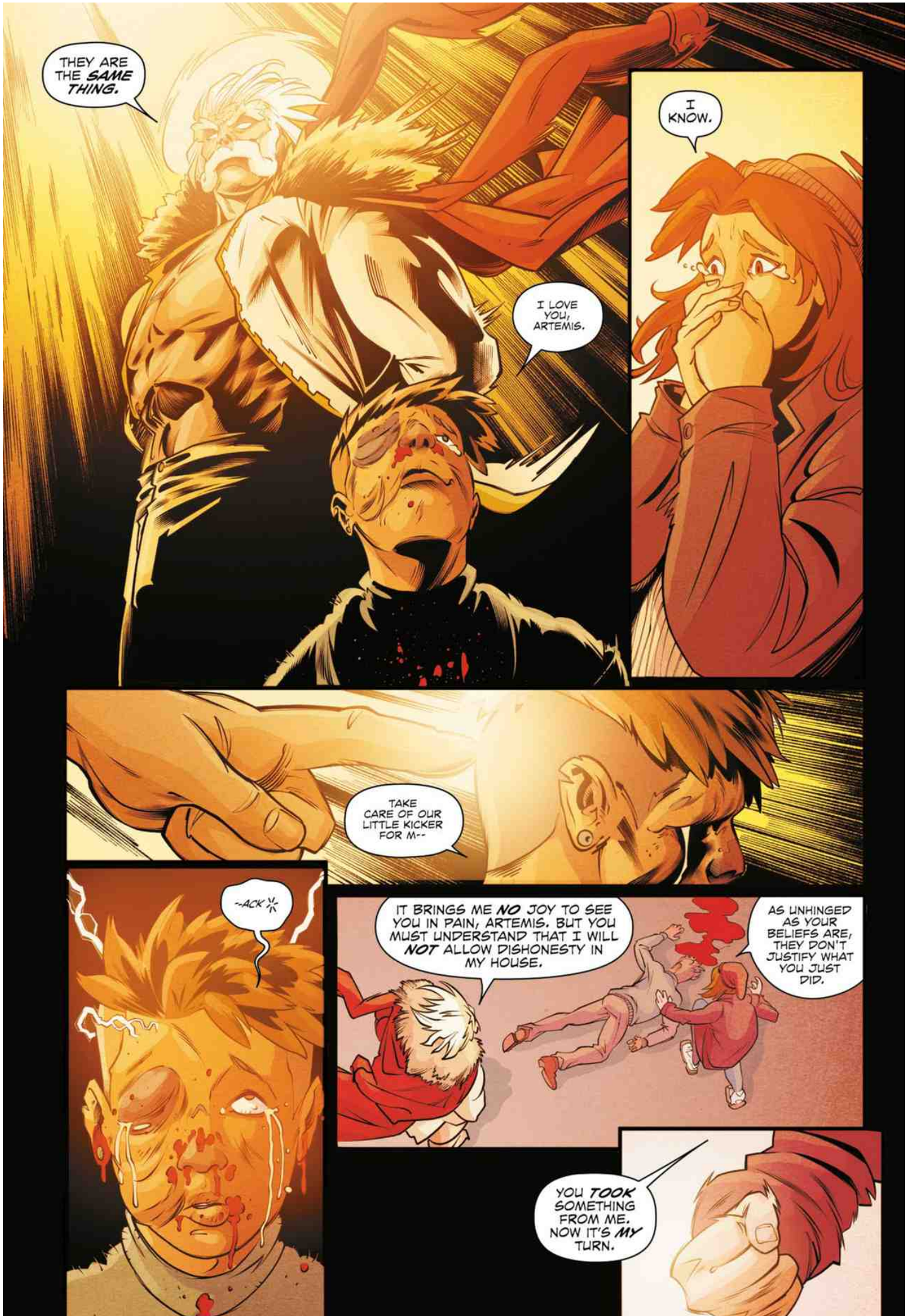

APOLLO
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU DON'T LIKE TO USE YOUR POWERS ANYMORE.
DON'T START. I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THIS.
I SEE THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
IF I WERE FATHER, THERE WOULD BE ONE OF ME ON EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE.
DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.
SPEAKING OF FATHER, I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST BE MEETING HIM. WHO ELSE IS HERE?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO

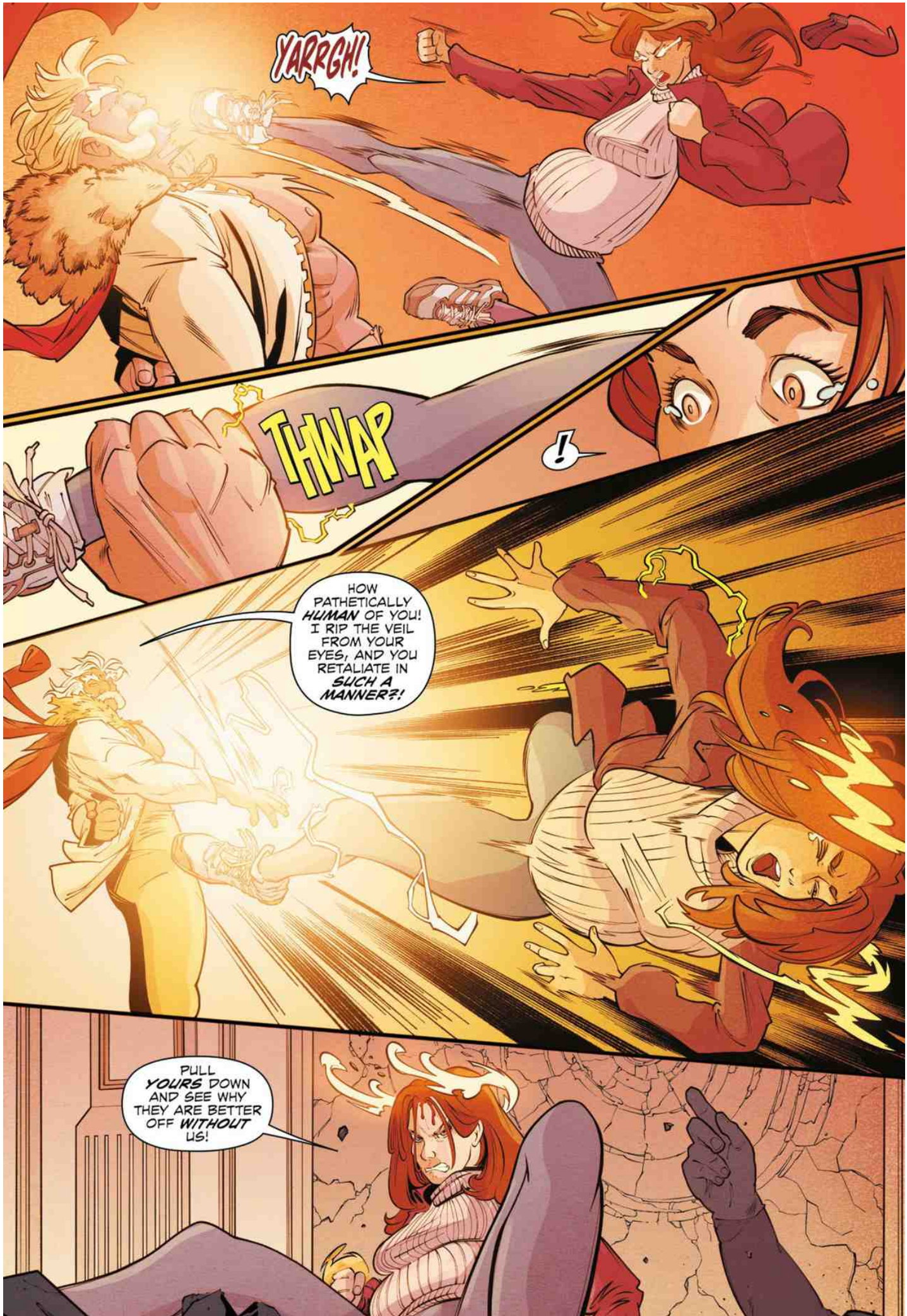

UNLIKE YOU, I LOVE COMING HERE. OLYMPUS REMINDS ME OF THE GLORY WE BROUGHT TO THESE MONGRELS.
WHERE WERE YOU? WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR HOURS.
APHRODITE
ATHENA
THEY SAY PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE. SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU TWO.
HERMES
HE SUMMONED YOU, TOO?
IT WOULD SEEM HIS TIMING IS IMPECCABLE.
I HOPE THIS DOESN'T TAKE LONG. I HAVE DJ HECATE PLAYING MY PARTY IN PARIS TONIGHT.
DID HE TELL YOU WHY WE ARE HERE?
NO. BUT YOU CAN ASK "THE TITAN BUTCHER" YOURSELF.


ARTEMIS, ARTEMIS, ARTEMIS.
FAMILY IS LIKE BRANCHES ON A TREE. THEY ALL GROW IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS BUT ARE ATTACHED TO THE SAME ROOT.
YOU DON'T WRITE. YOU NEVER VISIT. DO YOU HATE YOUR FATHER?
ZEUS
I'M SORRY IF IT SEEMS THAT WAY, BUT YOU KNOW THIS LIFE IS NOT FOR ME.
WHY IS THAT? YOU WERE SO GOOD AT YOUR JOB. YOU ARE A HUNTER, AND HUNTERS NEVER PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS.
WELL, FATHER, I GUESS THIS HUNTER HAS SHOWN YOU OTHER-WISE.
IS YOUR LOVE FOR HUMANITY SO STRONG THAT YOU WOULD PUT THEM ABOVE US? ABOVE FAMILY?
NAIVE SISTER. THE ALMIGHTY ZEUS KNOWS EVERYTHING.
THOSE WHOM YOU LOVE THE MOST CAN HURT YOU

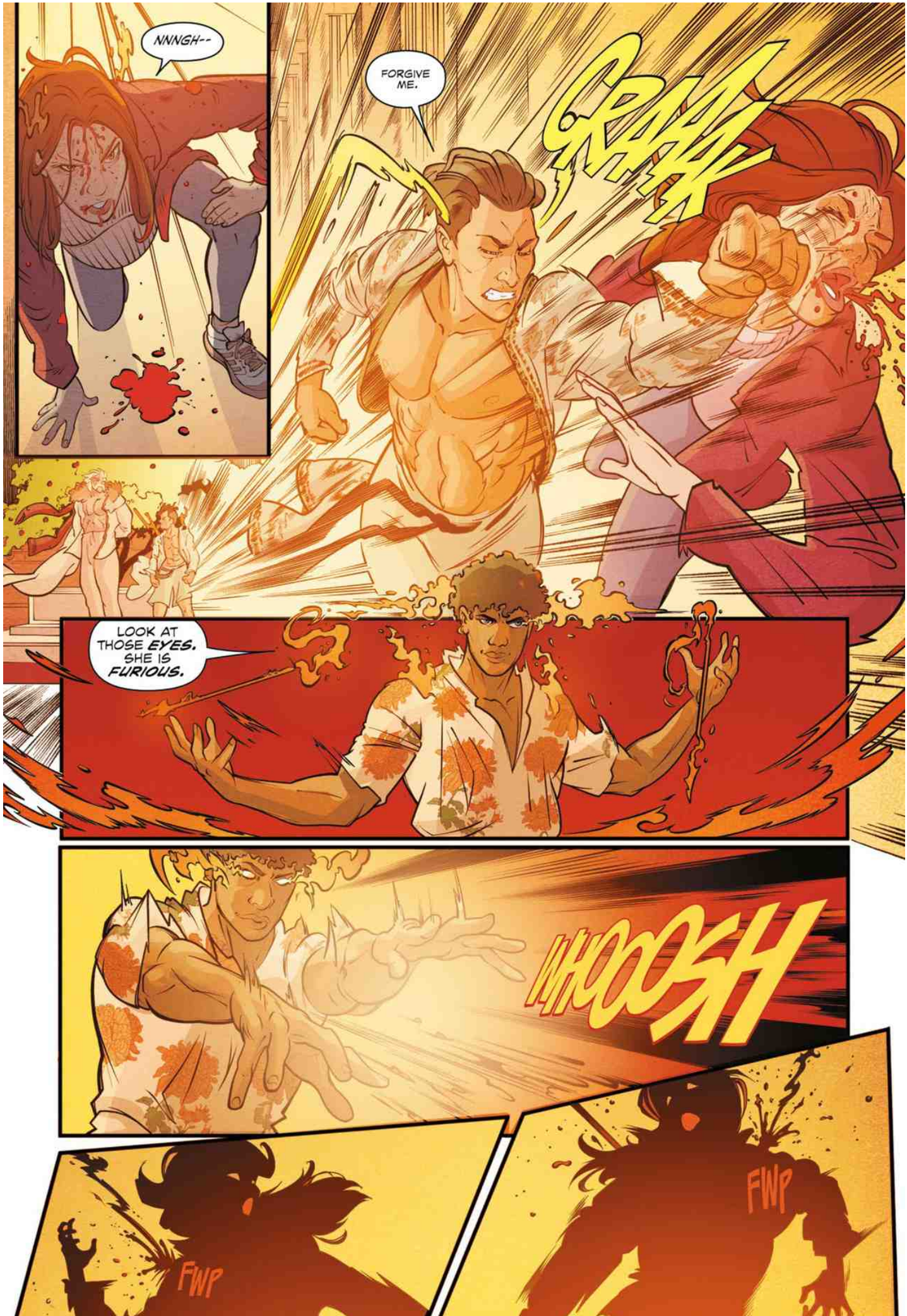
IMPOSSIBLE!
MY OWN DAUGHTER, SWORN TO ETERNAL CELIBACY. HOW COULD YOU SINK SO LOW?
THOSE CONNIVING MORTALS DID CHANGE YOU!
DO YOU LOVE HIM?
OF COURSE, I DO.
THEN THIS IS GOING TO HURT YOU MORE THAN IT WILL HURT ME.

RIGHT HERE, FATHER.
MOVE, YOU MORTAL PIECE OF SHIT.
BABY! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE. THESE FUCKERS AREN'T AS TOUGH AS THEY THINK THEY ARE.
I'M SO SORRY, JULIAN.
YOU CHOSE THIS PATHETIC HUMAN OVER ETERNAL GLORY? OVER ETERNAL WORSHIP?
THEY DON'T WORSHIP US...
...THEY FEAR US!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND,


THEY ARE THE SAME THING.
I KNOW.
I LOVE YOU, ARTEMIS.
TAKE CARE OF OUR LITTLE KICKER FOR M--
--ACK
IT BRINGS ME NO JOY TO SEE YOU IN PAIN, ARTEMIS. BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL NOT ALLOW DISHONESTY IN MY HOUSE.
AS UNHINGED AS YOUR BELIEFS ARE, THEY DON'T JUSTIFY WHAT YOU JUST DID.
YOU TOOK SOMETHING FROM ME. NOW IT'S MY TURN.

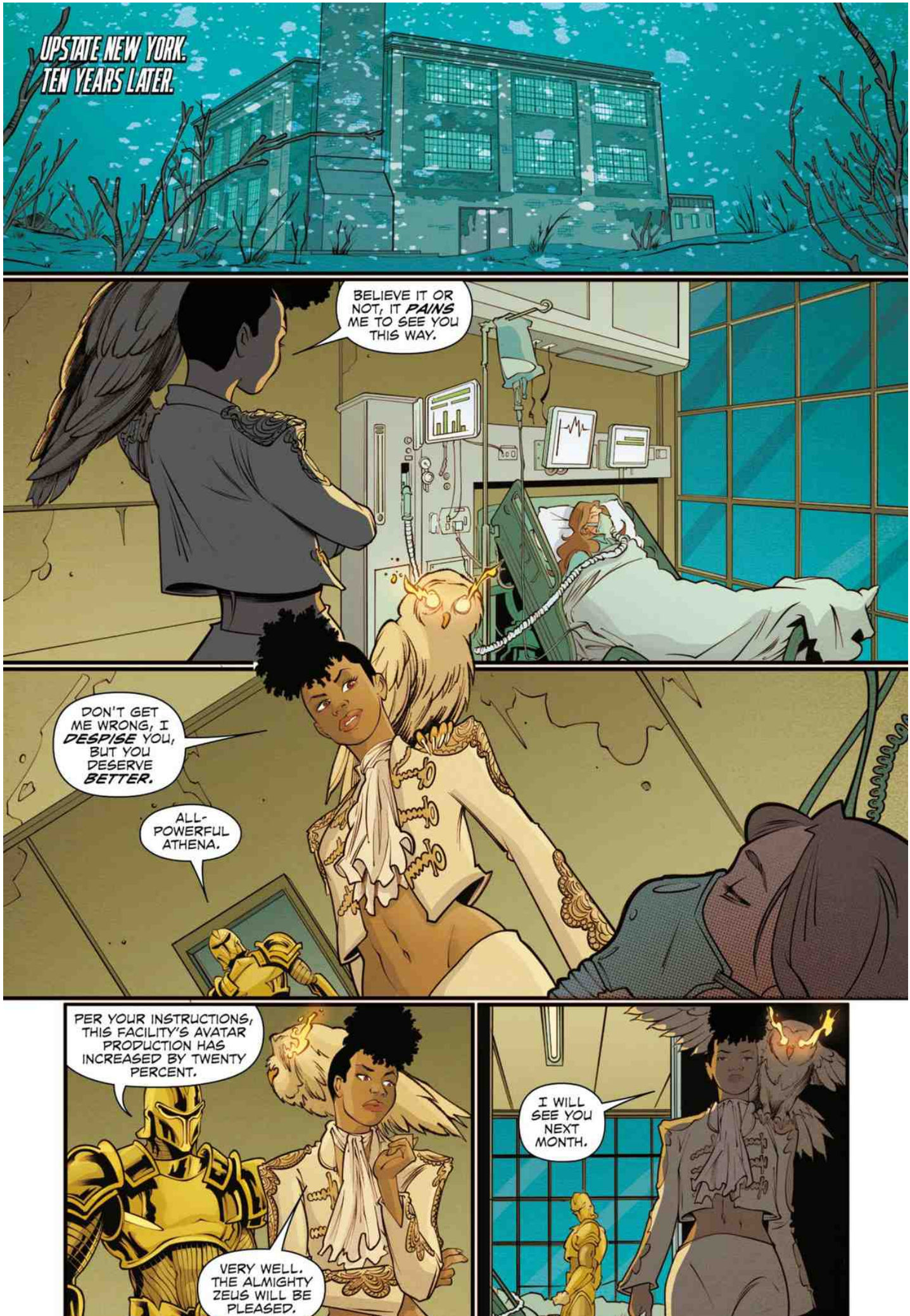

YARRGH!
THWAP
!
HOW PATHETICALLY *HUMAN* OF YOU! I RIP THE VEIL FROM YOUR EYES, AND YOU RETALIATE IN *SUCH A MANNER?!*
PULL *YOURS* DOWN AND SEE WHY THEY ARE BETTER OFF *WITHOUT* US!

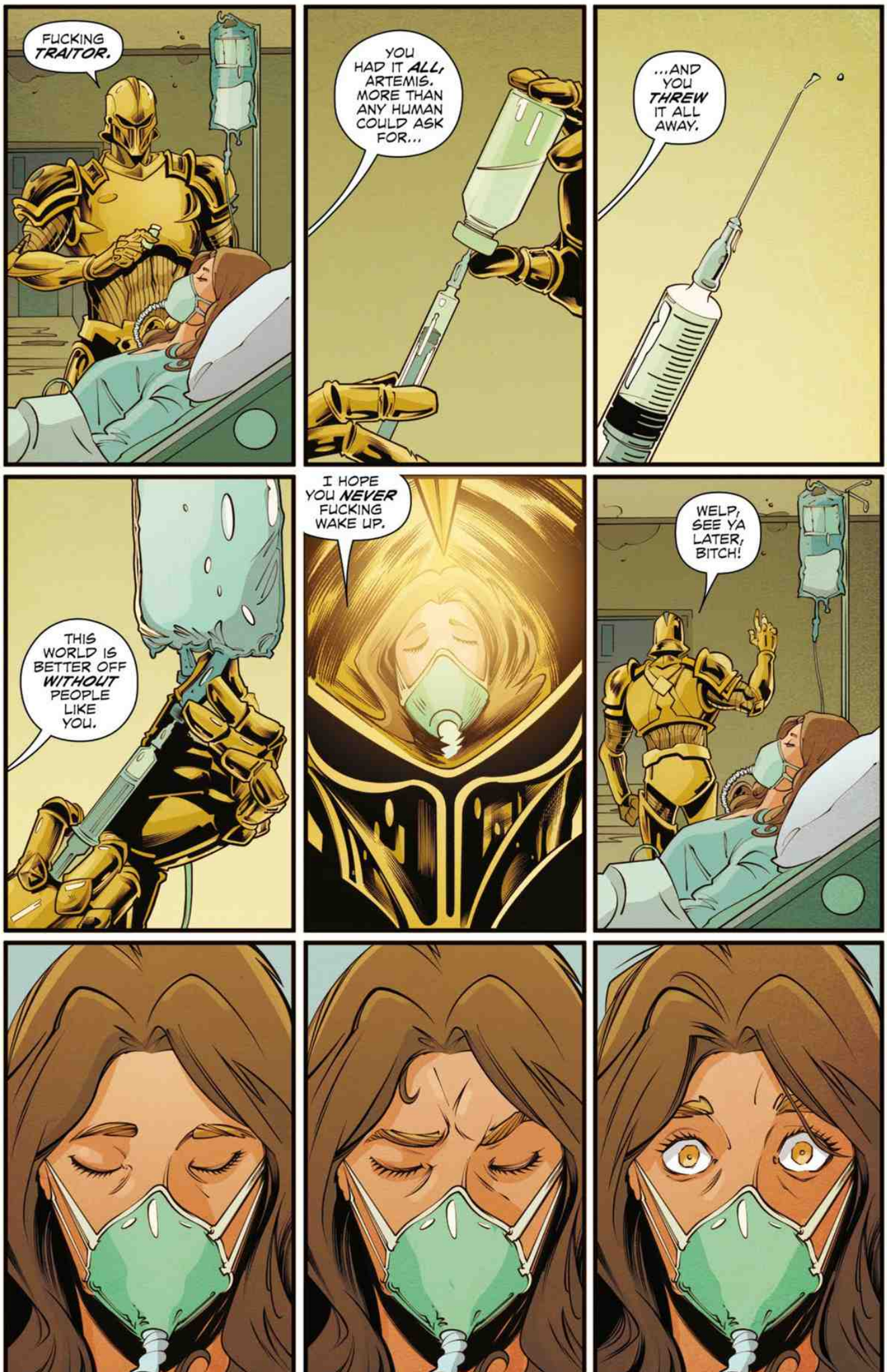
HOLD YOUR TONGUE!
JULIAN WAS RIGHT...YOU DON'T HIT AS HARD AS I REMEMBER, ATHENA.
BUT I DO.
WHAM
HERMES, IT'S YOUR TURN.
FATHER, PLEASE LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.
DO AS I SAY, OR YOU'LL BE NEXT!

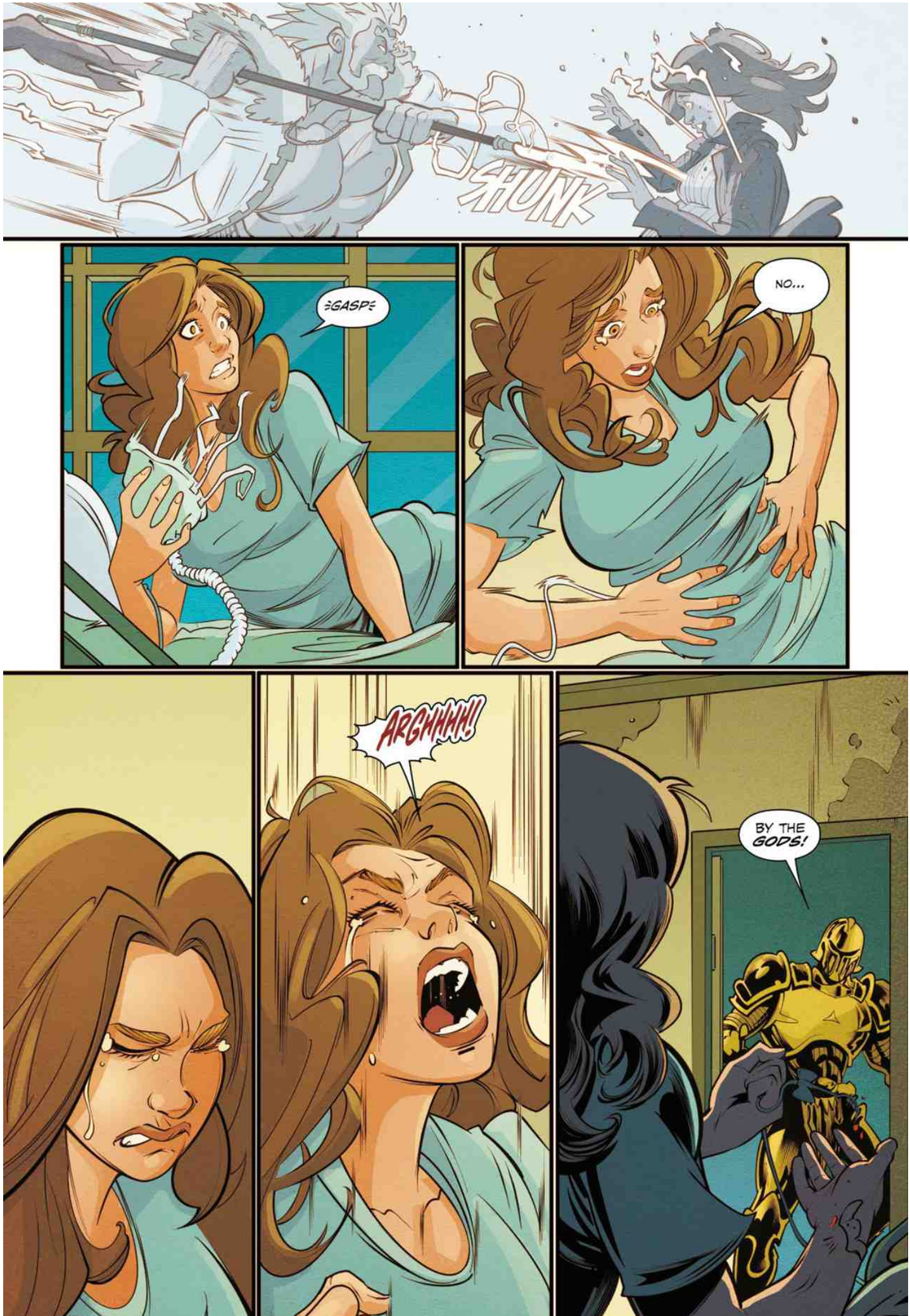

NNNGH--
FORGIVE ME.
CRAK
LOOK AT THOSE EYES. SHE IS FURIOUS.
WHOOSH
FWP
FWP

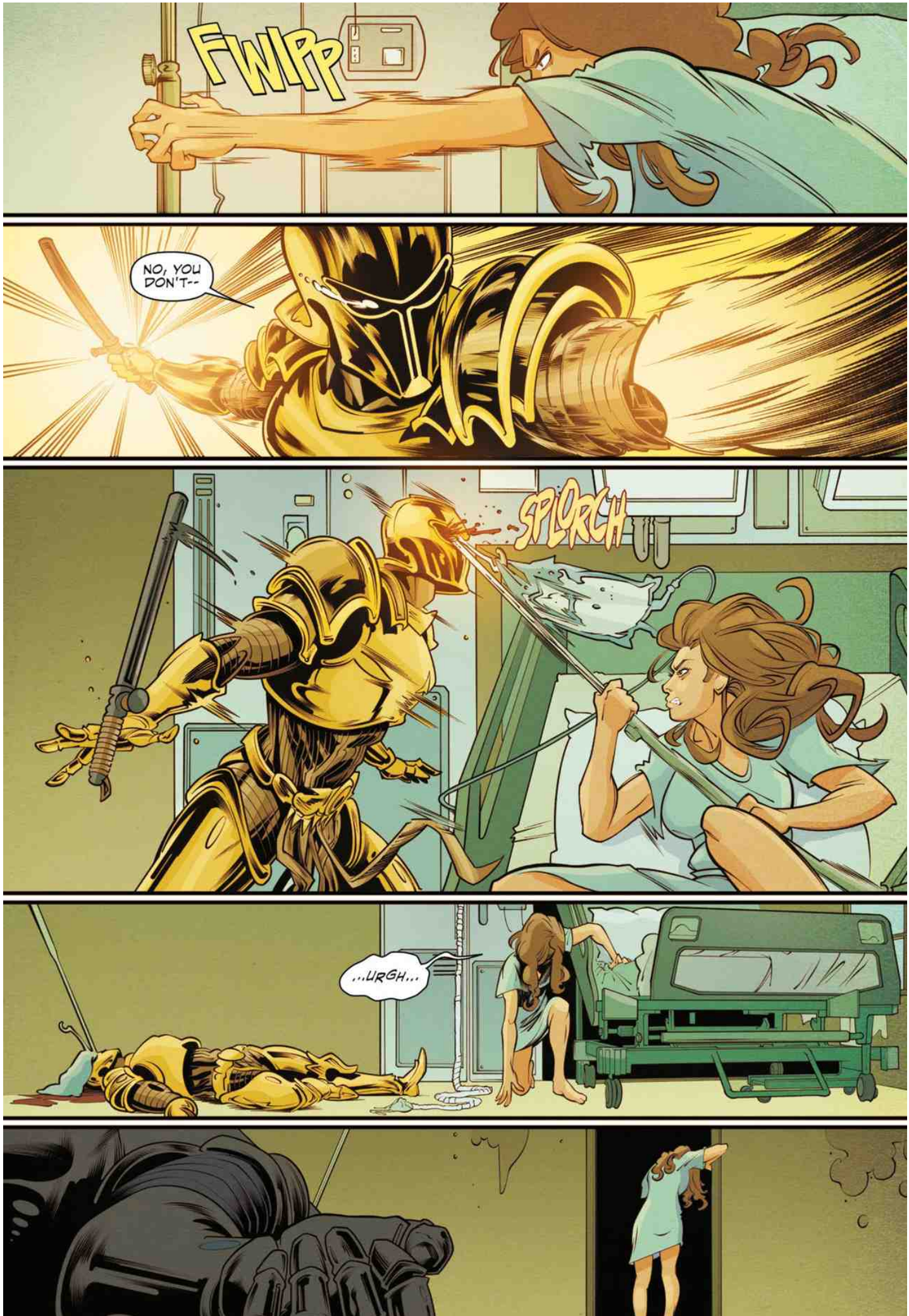
ALWAYS AIM FOR THE HEAD, APOLLO. OTHERWISE, THEY'LL KEEP COM--
ENOUGH, DAUGHTER.
SHUNK
AAAAAHH!
I'M SORRY...
...NNNGH...

...BUT THIS IS FOR THE BEST.

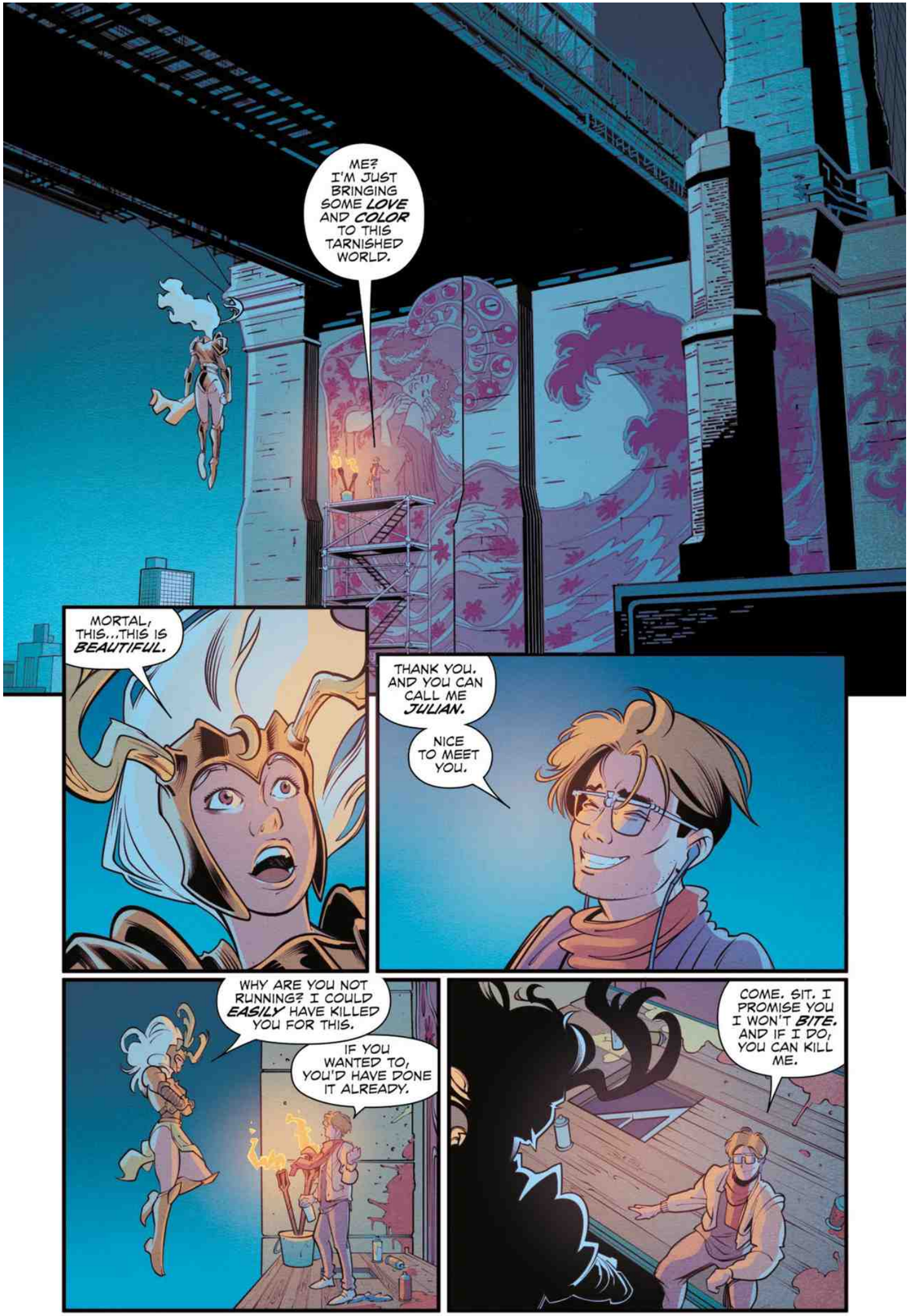

UPSTATE NEW YORK.
TEN YEARS LATER.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT PAINS ME TO SEE YOU THIS WAY.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I DESPISE YOU, BUT YOU DESERVE BETTER.
ALL-POWERFUL ATHENA.
PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, THIS FACILITY'S AVATAR PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED BY TWENTY PERCENT.
VERY WELL. THE ALMIGHTY ZEUS WILL BE PLEASED.
I WILL SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.


FUCKING TRAITOR.
YOU HAD IT ALL, ARTEMIS. MORE THAN ANY HUMAN COULD ASK FOR...
...AND YOU THREW IT ALL AWAY.
THIS WORLD IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
I HOPE YOU NEVER FUCKING WAKE UP.
WELP, SEE YA LATER, BITCH!

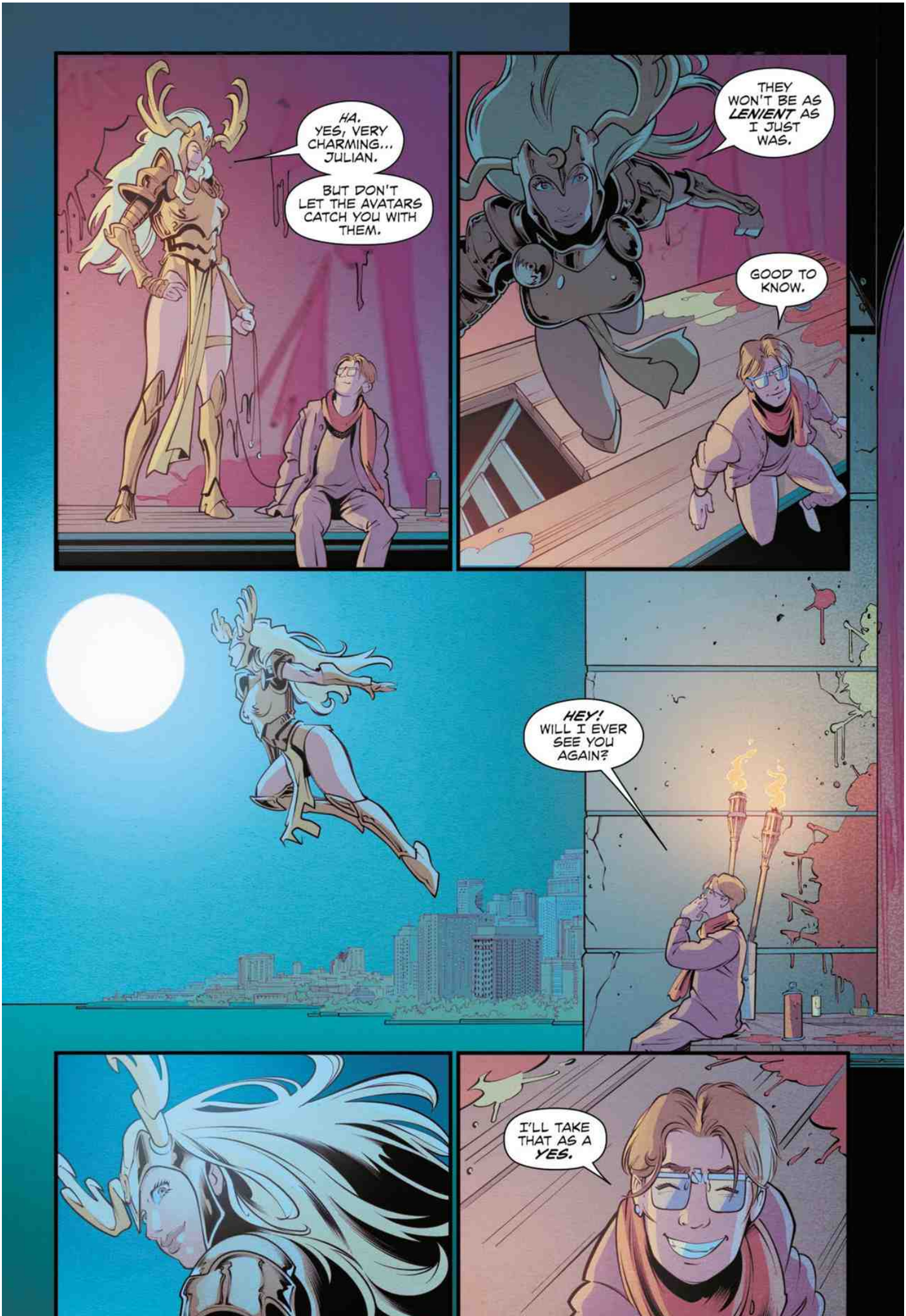

SHUNK
GASP
NO...
ARGHHHH!
BY THE GODS!


FWIPP
NO, YOU DON'T--
SPLORCH
...URGH...

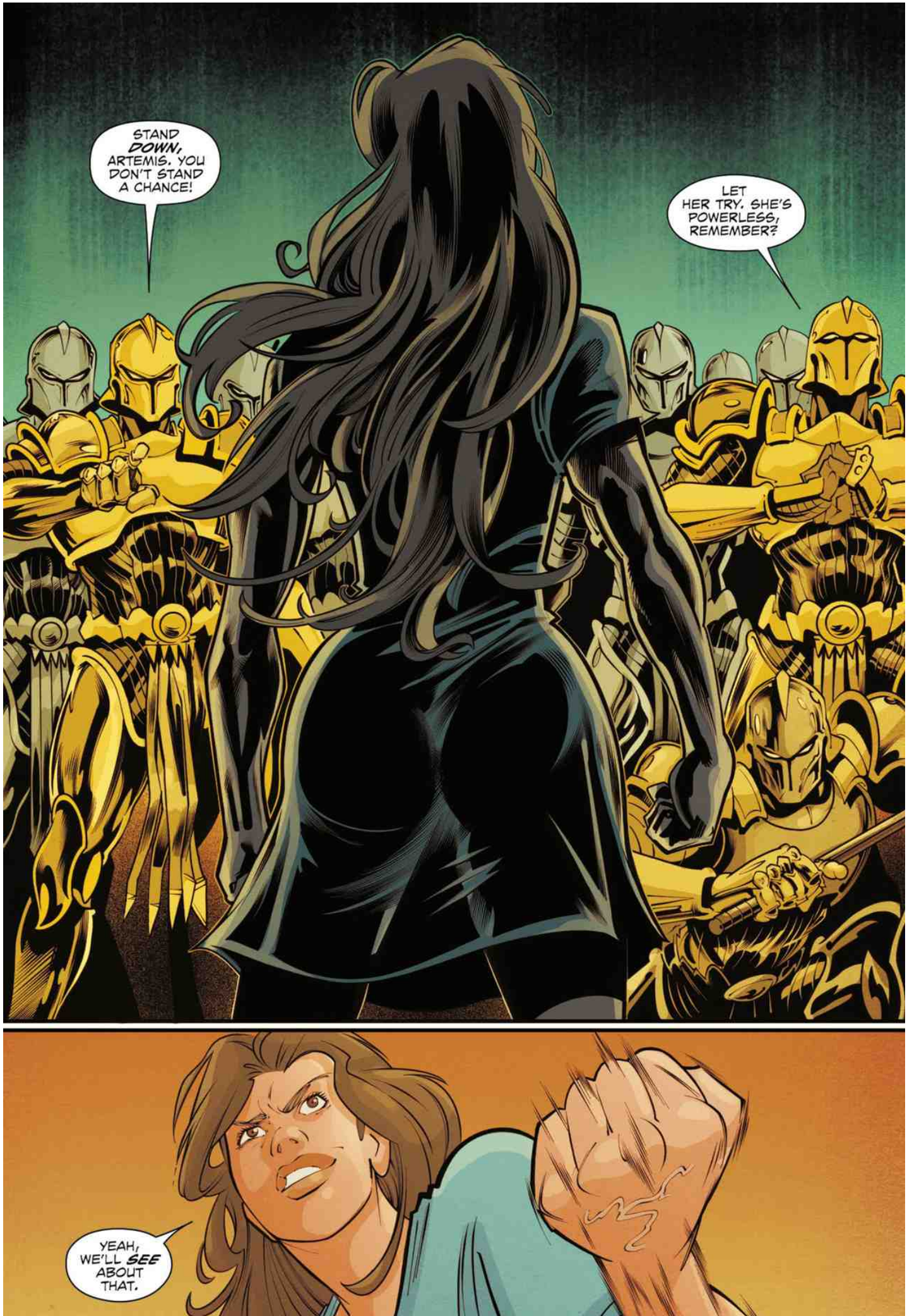
PSHHHHHH
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
PSHHHHH

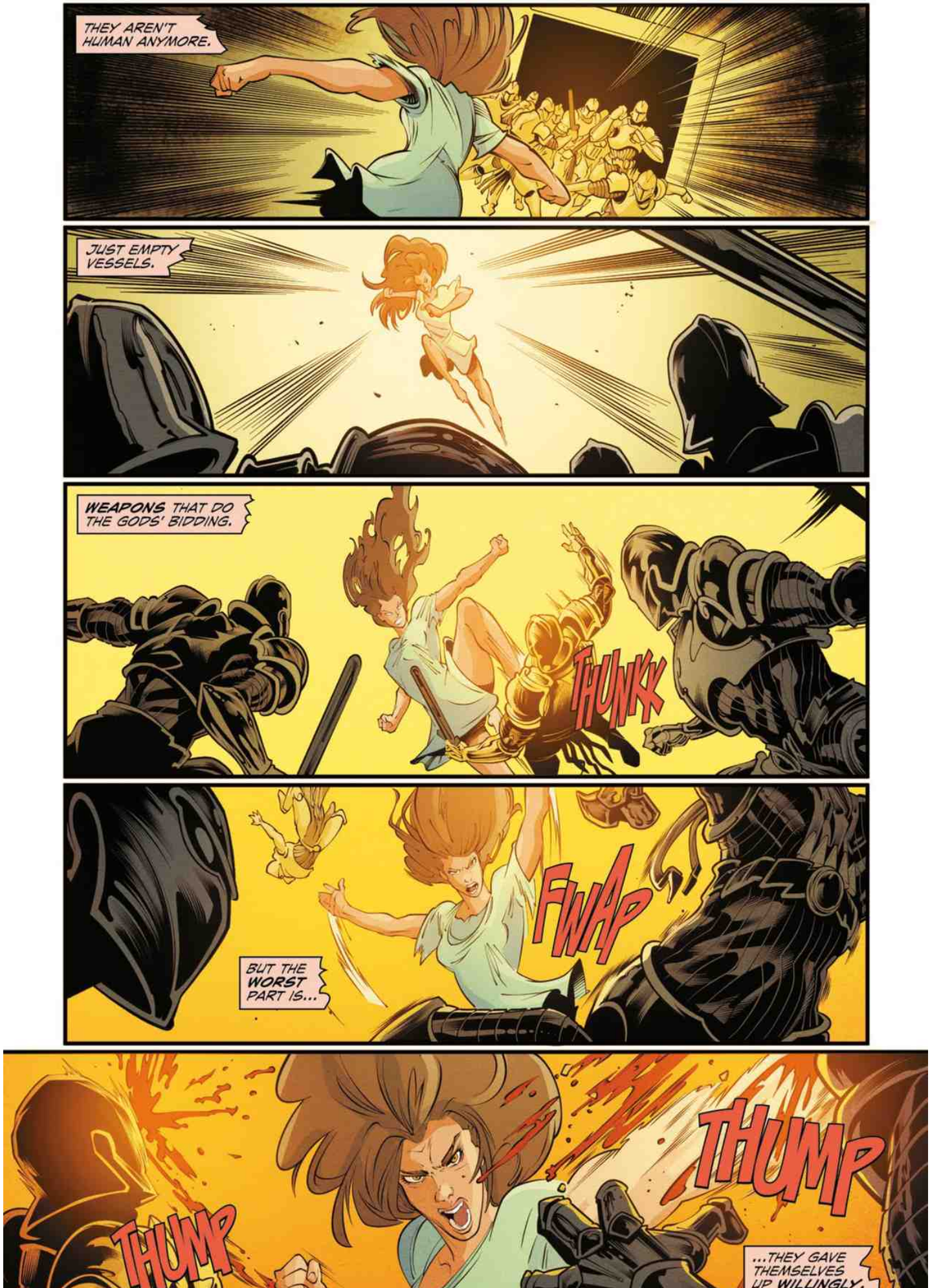

ME? I'M JUST BRINGING SOME LOVE AND COLOR TO THIS TARNISHED WORLD.
MORTAL, THIS...THIS IS BEAUTIFUL.
THANK YOU. AND YOU CAN CALL ME JULIAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WHY ARE YOU NOT RUNNING? I COULD EASILY HAVE KILLED YOU FOR THIS.
IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.
COME. SIT. I PROMISE YOU I WON'T BITE. AND IF I DO, YOU CAN KILL ME.

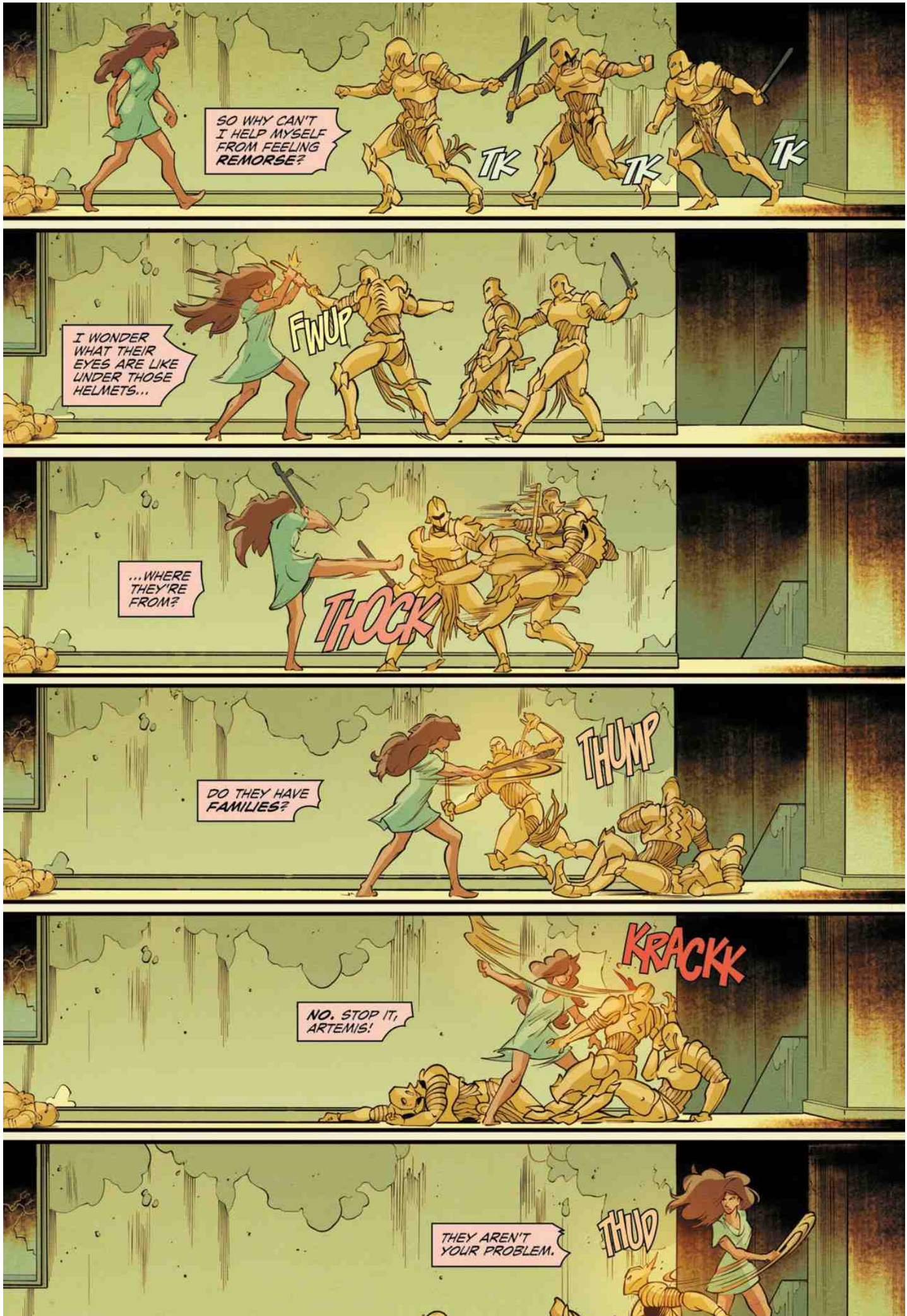
THE TECHNOLOGY AROUND YOUR NECK IS *ILLEGAL*, YOU KNOW.
I GET WHY YOU BANNED WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND EVEN THE INTERNET...
...BUT *HEADPHONES?* COME ON!
HERE. TRY THEM ON.
RIGHT?! YOU *CAN'T* GO WRONG WITH THE STONES.


HA. YES, VERY CHARMING... JULIAN.
BUT DON'T LET THE AVATARS CATCH YOU WITH THEM.
THEY WON'T BE AS LENIENT AS I JUST WAS.
GOOD TO KNOW.
HEY! WILL I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.

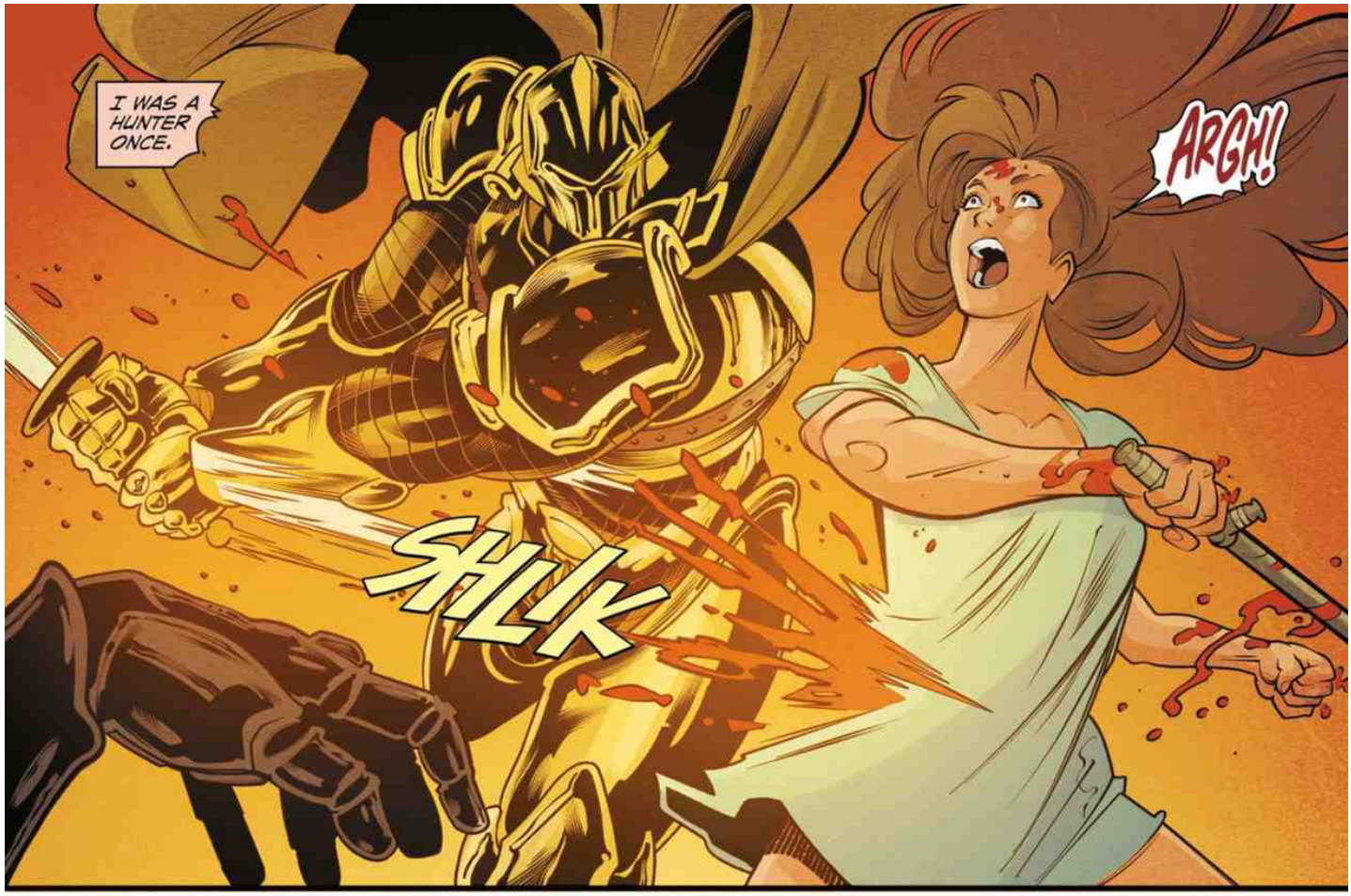
NNGH--
ARRRRGH!
JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE HORRORS WE BROUGHT ON HUMANITY.
ENSLAVING THEM.
REWIRING THEIR BRAINS TO FORGET WHO THEY ARE.
VRRRRRRRRRR
AHHHHH!
BWABWABWABWABWABWABWABW
TK
TK
TK
TK
TK


STAND DOWN, ARTEMIS. YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
LET HER TRY. SHE'S POWERLESS, REMEMBER?
YEAH, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.


THEY AREN'T HUMAN ANYMORE.
JUST EMPTY VESSELS.
WEAPONS THAT DO THE GODS' BIDDING.
THUNKK
FWAP
BUT THE WORST PART IS...
THUMP
THUMP
...THEY GAVE THEMSELVES UP WILLINGLY.

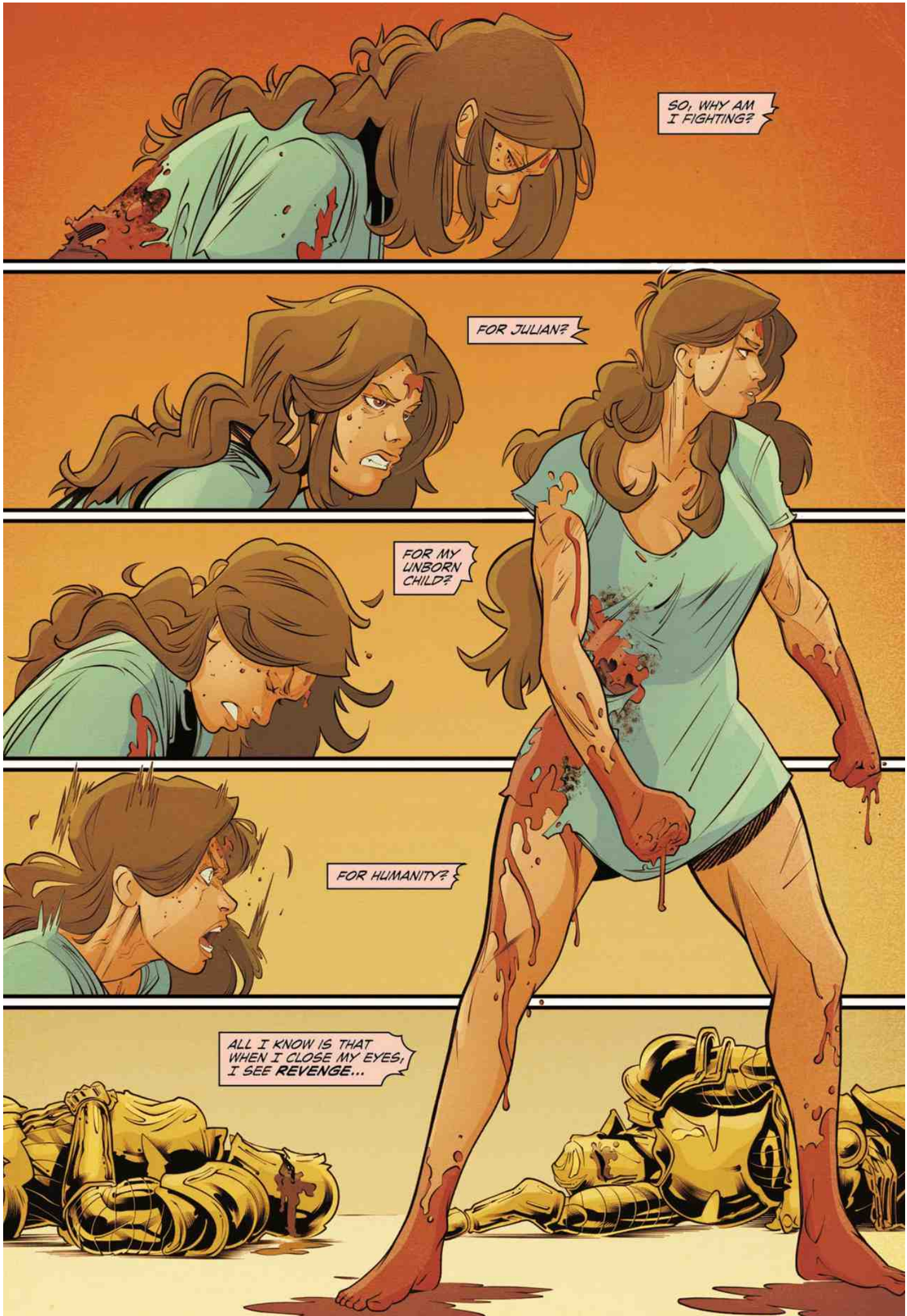

SO WHY CAN'T I HELP MYSELF FROM FEELING REMORSE?
TK
TK
TK
I WONDER WHAT THEIR EYES ARE LIKE UNDER THOSE HELMETS...
FWUP
...WHERE THEY'RE FROM?
THOCK
DO THEY HAVE FAMILIES?
THUMP
NO. STOP IT, ARTEMIS!
KRACKK
THEY AREN'T YOUR PROBLEM.
THUD

I SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT MY MURDERED HUSBAND AND UNBORN CHILD.
SMACK
CLUNK
THEY WERE ALL I HAD.
CRUNCH
WHAP
AND MY OWN FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING THEM AWAY.
THUNKK
MAYBE THIS IS MY FAULT.
CRACK
MAYBE I CAN NEVER DENY WHO I REALLY AM.


I WAS A HUNTER ONCE.
ARGH!
SHLK

THE BEST.
THUNK

MAYBE ZEUS WAS RIGHT. A HUNTER NEVER LAYS DOWN THEIR WEAPON.


SO, WHY AM I FIGHTING?
FOR JULIAN?
FOR MY UNBORN CHILD?
FOR HUMANITY?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I SEE **REVENGE**...

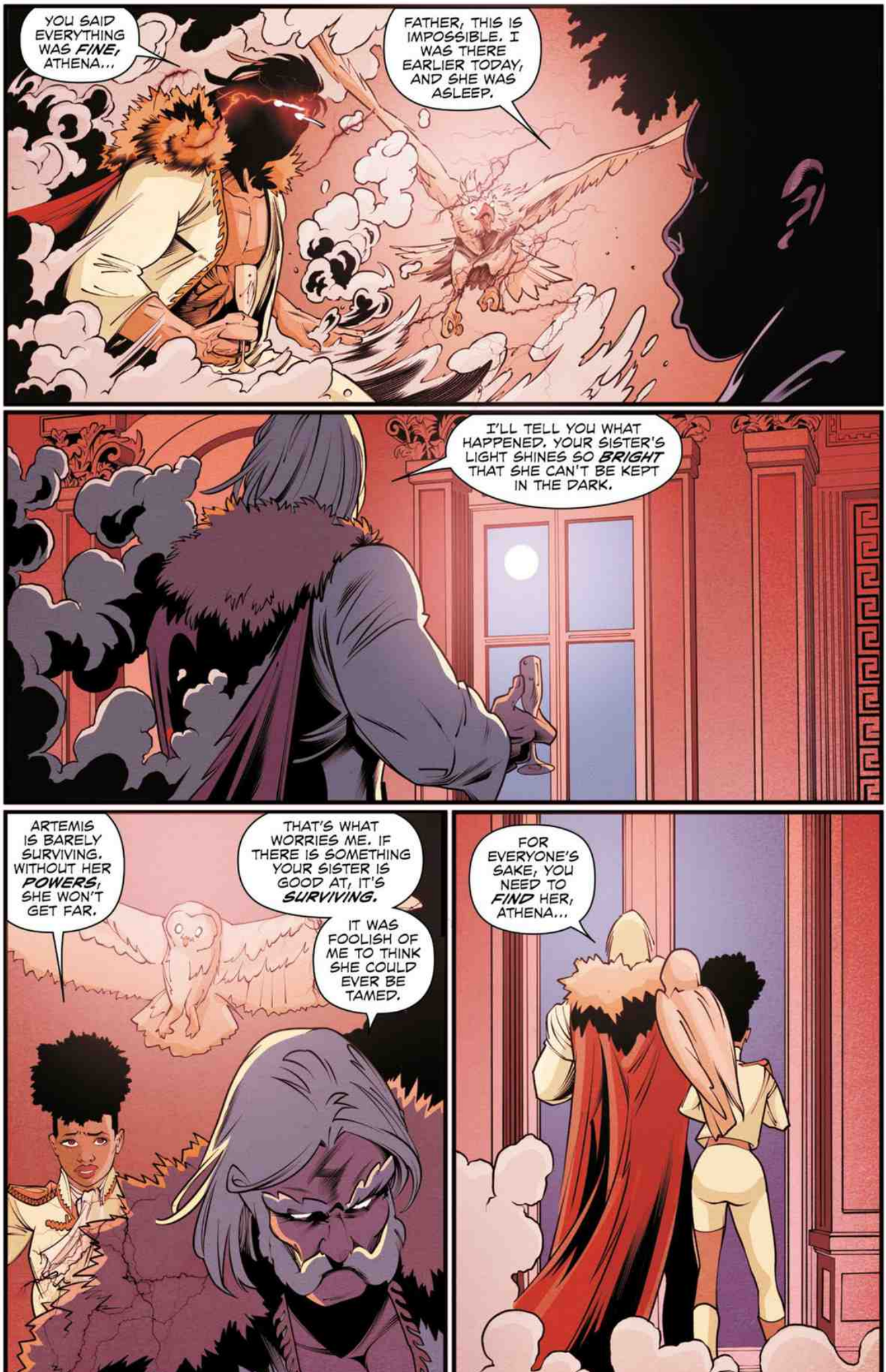
REVENGE ON ZEUS FOR EVERYTHING HE STRIPPED AWAY FROM ME.
I JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW.
I WAS STARTING TO LOSE FAITH IN YOU, DEAR. WHAT *TOOK* YOU SO LONG?
WHO THE FUCK ARE *YOU?*
THEY CALL ME *TEMPUS.* I'M THE ONE WHO JUST RISKED HIS LIFE TO WAKE YOUR ASS UP.

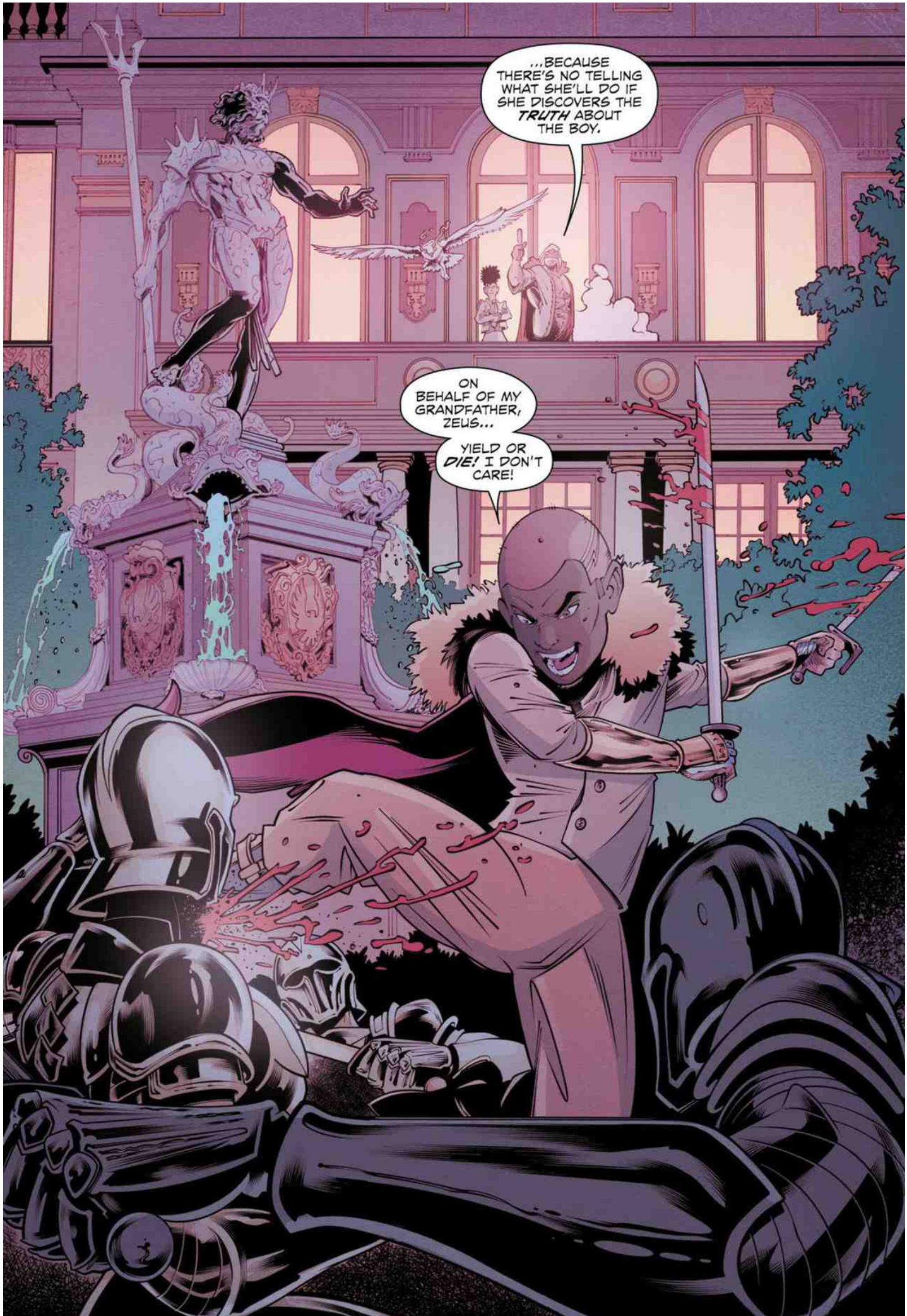
"AFTER MONTHS OF SCOPING OUT THIS FACILITY...
"...AND STUDYING THE GUARDS' PATTERNS, I INFILTRATED IT.
"EVENTUALLY, I FIGURED OUT WHAT THEY GAVE YOU TO KEEP YOU UNDER AND CHANGED THE FORMULA."
HOW... HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN ASLEEP?
TEN YEARS, HONEY. YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.
FOR NOW, LET'S FOCUS ON THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST.
YEAH? LIKE WHAT?
WE BOTH WANT ZEUS DEAD.
AND, WITH YOU, MY DEAR, HUMANITY FINALLY STANDS A CHANCE.
WHAT?! NO, I COULD BARELY GET THROUGH THOSE AVATARS JUST NOW. I CAN'T GO AFTER THE GODS WITHOUT MY POWERS!

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GOING AFTER THEM?
THE GODS WILL COME TO YOU.
AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR POWERS...
...BECAUSE THIS RIGHT HERE GIVES YOU A REAL ADVANTAGE.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE GUY WHO BUILT IT HAS BEEN DYING TO TALK TO YOU. JUST PRESS THE BUTTON TO SPEAK AND RELEASE WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
HELLO?
ARTY? IT IS SO GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, BABY GIRL.
HEPHAESTUS?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD?!

YOUR FATHER TRIED, BUT I GOT AWAY BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH.
HE'S STILL LOOKING FOR ME, BUT I THINK IT SUITS HIM BEST TO TELL EVERYONE THAT I DIED.
SO, I'VE BEEN LENDING MY SERVICES TO HUMANITY EVER SINCE.
NOW, WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE, WE ACTUALLY STAND A CHANCE.
WHERE... ARE... YOU...?
JUST A FEW HOURS UP THE ROAD. TEMPUS KNOWS THE WAY.
NNNGH--
BABY GIRL! WHAT'S WRONG?!
THUMP
SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, HEPH.
DON'T LET HER DIE. I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HER AGAIN.
I'LL TORCH THE PALACE AND HEAD RIGHT OVER. HAVE EVERYTHING READY.

OLYMPUS, NEW YORK.
FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION, SIRE, BUT I BRING DISTRESSING NEWS.
WHAT IS IT, LEMANTIS?
YOUR DAUGHTER ESCAPED. AND IT GETS WORSE...
"...THE FACILITY WAS BURNED DOWN."
FWOOM


YOU SAID EVERYTHING WAS *FINE*, ATHENA...
FATHER, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE. I WAS THERE EARLIER TODAY, AND SHE WAS ASLEEP.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED. YOUR SISTER'S LIGHT SHINES SO *BRIGHT* THAT SHE CAN'T BE KEPT IN THE DARK.
ARTEMIS IS BARELY SURVIVING. WITHOUT HER *POWERS*, SHE WON'T GET FAR.
THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME. IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOUR SISTER IS GOOD AT, IT'S *SURVIVING*.
IT WAS FOOLISH OF ME TO THINK SHE COULD EVER BE TAMED.
FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE, YOU NEED TO *FIND* HER, ATHENA...


...BECAUSE THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT SHE'LL DO IF SHE DISCOVERS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BOY.
ON BEHALF OF MY GRANDFATHER, ZEUS...
YIELD OR DIE! I DON'T CARE!

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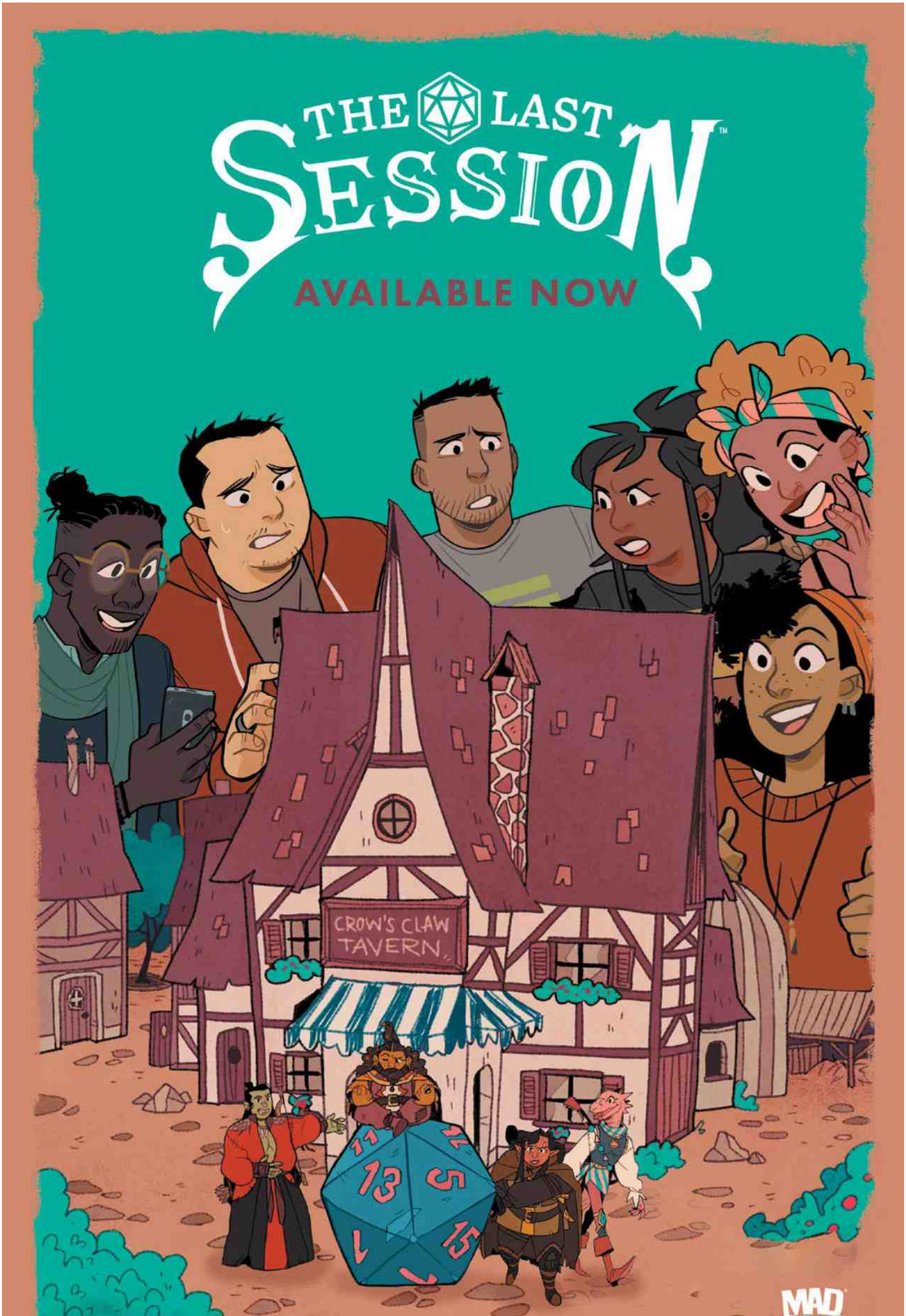
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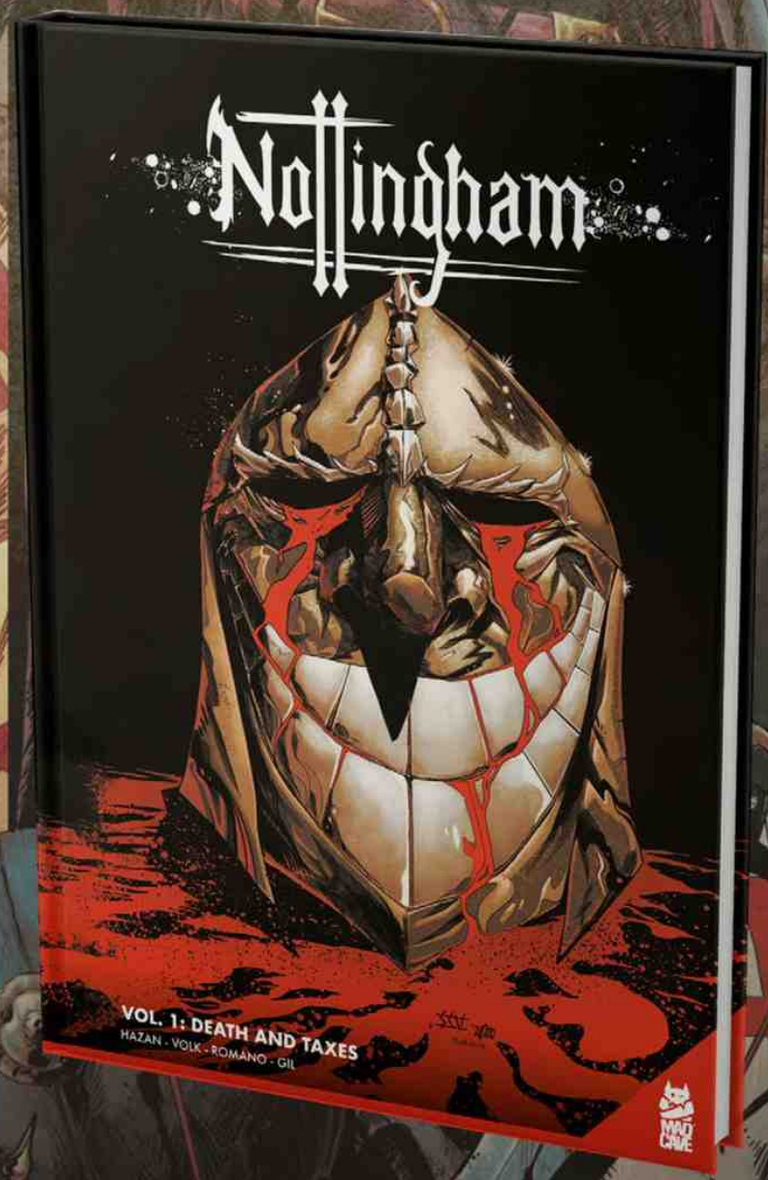

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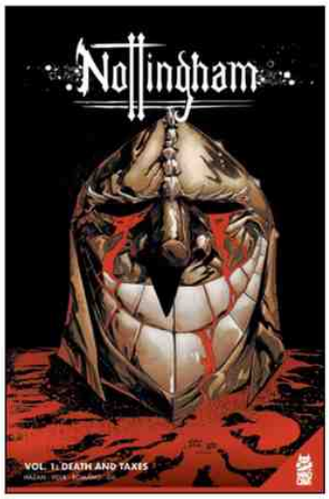

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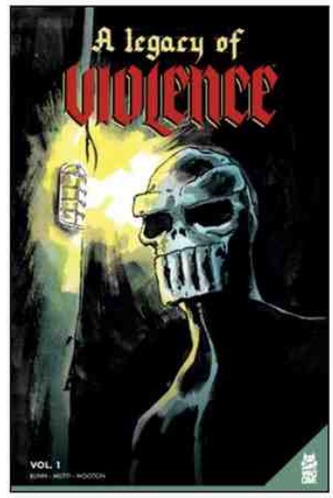

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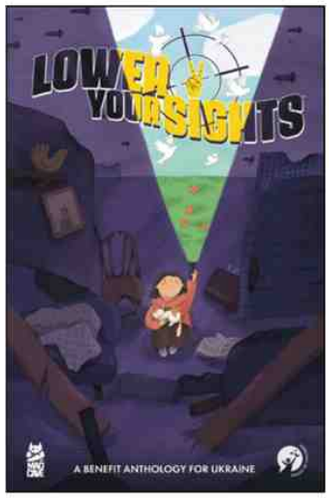

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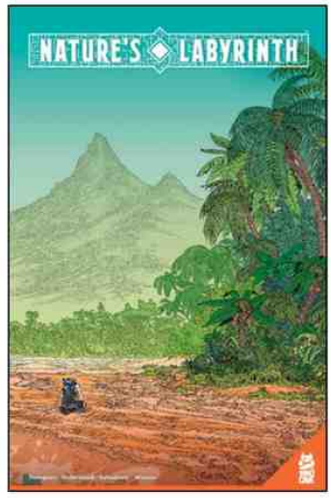

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